



Annual Report



Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

FY 08-09

Honorable Bob Riley
Governor of Alabama
State Capitol
Montgomery, AL 36130



Dear Governor Riley:

I am pleased to submit the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. As you will see, the Department was involved in many diverse projects during the year.

We continue to find more efficient ways to communicate and conduct business with our constituents. Many functions are currently available through the Department's Web site, www.outdooralabama.com, such as purchasing hunting and fishing licenses, reporting deer harvest data and registering for special hunts.

Renovations to Lakepoint State Park's lodge were completed and a grand opening was held in August 2009. The new pier at Gulf State Park opened in July 2009 and is currently the longest pier on the Gulf Coast at 1,540 feet. Both facilities will give a boost to tourism in their respective areas.

A community archery park in Cullman was completed this fiscal year. This project is a collaborative effort between the Department's Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, the Archery Trade Association and local entities.

The State Lands Division facilitated the purchase of 11 acquisitions totaling 71,500 acres for the Forever Wild Land Trust. Forever Wild continues to be Alabama's most successful program to purchase land for public use.

The Marine Police Division celebrated 50 years as a division this year. Marine Police officers spent 30,171 hours patrolling Alabama's waterways during FY 2008-2009.

Enforcement officers with the Marine Resources Division conducted 17,349 hours of boat and shore patrol.

I am extremely proud of the Department's accomplishments and I appreciate your support and leadership to the State of Alabama.

Sincerely,


M. Barnett Lawley
Commissioner

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview	5
Conservation Advisory Board	6
Organizational Chart	7
Administrative	8
Marine Police	16
Marine Resources	20
State Lands	26
State Parks	30
Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries	38

Department Overview

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is an executive and administrative department of the State of Alabama created by statute. The Commissioner, appointed by the Governor as a member of his cabinet, advises the Governor and Legislature on management of freshwater fish, wildlife, marine resources, waterway safety, state lands, state parks, and other natural resources.

SCOPE OF OPERATIONS

The Department's scope of operations includes the administration, management and maintenance of 22 state parks, 23 public fishing lakes, three freshwater fish hatcheries, 35 wildlife management areas, two waterfowl refuges, two wildlife sanctuaries, a mariculture center with 35 ponds, and 645,000 acres of trust lands managed for the benefit of several state agencies, the General Fund and Alabama Trust Fund. Other departmental functions include maintenance of a State Land Resource Information Center and administration of the Forever Wild land acquisition program.

ORGANIZATION

During Fiscal Year 2009, the Department had five operational divisions and seven support sections. The operational divisions were Marine Police, Marine Resources, State Lands, State Parks and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. Support sections were Accounting, Diversity and Recruiting, Engineering, Information and Education, Information Technology, Legal, Personnel and Payroll.

The Commissioner was advised by a 10-member Conservation Advisory Board appointed by the Governor.

Division directors managed the Department's programs under their jurisdiction through authority delegated by the Legislature and the Commissioner. Concerted efforts were made to balance needs and requirements against resources and available funding to satisfy present and future public and resource requirements. Active public education and voluntary participation programs were expanded and new plans were implemented to achieve maximum multiple-use benefits consistent with resource conservation.

DEPARTMENT GOALS

The Department's major goal is to promote the statewide stewardship and enjoyment of Alabama's natural resources, and to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy these resources.

FUNDING

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources receives no General Fund support. Funding for the Department is generated through special revenues, which include federal money, cigarette taxes, user and

license fees, and mandated interest from endowment and federal regulations. The Forever Wild Program receives interest income from the Alabama Trust Fund. Specific revenue sources for the five operational divisions are as follows:

Marine Police: Boat registration fees, fines, marine gas tax and federal grants.

Marine Resources: Saltwater fishing licenses, fines, marine gas tax and federal grants. Marine Resources also has an endowment but it has not grown enough to enhance operations.

State Lands: Management fees from the sale of timber, minerals and various leases on state lands administered under the Land Based Asset Management Program. Further, the division receives additional federal grants which support specific programs.

State Parks: User-generated funds in the form of entrance, rental, lodging, golf and other recreational fees. State Parks received a modest amount of funding from cigarette tax revenue.

Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Fishing and hunting licenses and permits; fines; waterfowl stamps; federal allocations from excise taxes on sporting arms, ammunition, archery gear and some fishing tackle; and federal grants. Interest income, although at slightly declining interest rates, continues to be generated by the Game and Fish endowment fund for resident lifetime hunting and fishing licenses. Direct donations and voluntary state income tax refund check-offs for the Nongame Wildlife Program continue to decrease from previous fiscal years.

CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

The Conservation Advisory Board, created by statute, is composed of 10 members appointed by the governor for alternating terms of six years, and three ex-officio members in the persons of the Governor, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries, and the Director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. The Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources serves as the ex-officio secretary of the board.

The Advisory Board assists in formulating policies for the Department of Conservation, examines all rules and regulations and makes recommendations for their change or amendment. By a two-thirds vote of the members present and with the Governor's approval, the board can amend, make any changes, repeal or create and promulgate additional rules and regulations. The Board also assists in publicizing the Department's programs and activities.

MEETINGS

The Advisory Board met three times during FY 2009:

- February 7, 2009 at the Capitol Auditorium in Montgomery.
- March 7, 2009 at the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum in Montgomery.
- May 16, 2009 at the Capitol Auditorium in Montgomery.

CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

<u>Members</u>	<u>Home Town</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Dan Moultrie, Chairman	Birmingham	March 27, 2015
George Harbin	Gadsden	May 20, 2011
Bill Hatley	Gulf Shores	May 20, 2011
W. Grant Lynch	Talladega	May 9, 2013
Wayne May	Eutaw	March 27, 2015
Raymond Jones, Jr.	Huntsville	May 9, 2013
Ross Self	Gulf Shores	March 27, 2015
Warren Strickland	Huntsville	May 20, 2011
Grady Hartzog	Eufaula	March 27, 2015
Brock Jones	Tuscaloosa	March 27, 2015

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Bob Riley, Governor

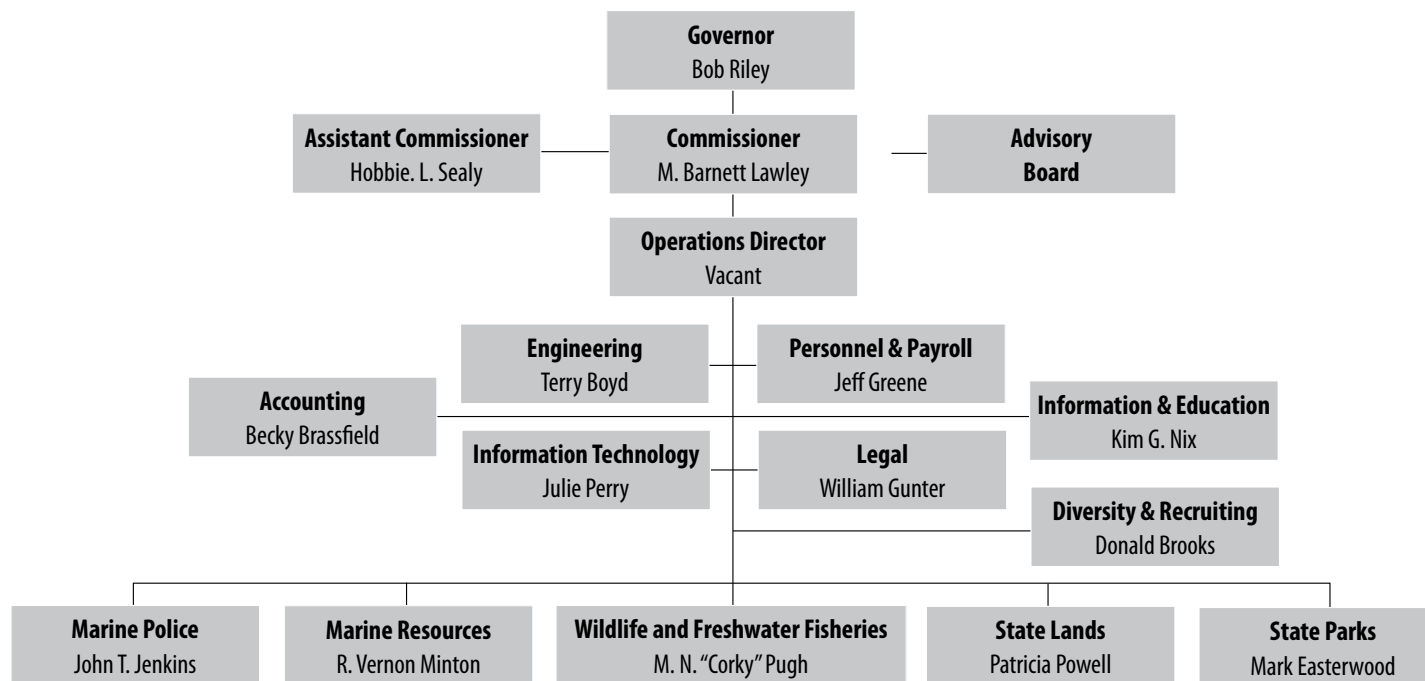
Gaines Smith, Auburn University Cooperative Extension System Director

Ron Sparks, Department of Agriculture and Industries Commissioner

EX-OFFICIO SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

M. Barnett Lawley, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Commissioner

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES



FY 2009 BUDGETS AND EXPENDITURES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

Section	Budgeted Amounts	Actual Expenditures
Accounting	\$1,154,909	\$949,302
Auditing	\$306,746	\$309,842
Boat Registration	\$337,476	\$223,988
Commissioner's Office	\$1,329,867	\$937,687
Diversity	\$264,015	\$186,898
Engineering	\$2,203,369	\$1,681,145
Information & Education	\$1,419,060	\$1,042,349
Information Technology	\$2,012,610	\$1,585,629
Legal	\$1,149,367	\$770,349
License	\$348,852	\$256,597
Personnel & Payroll	\$933,618	\$762,358
Property Inventory	\$194,796	\$154,031
Totals	\$11,654,685	\$8,860,175



Administrative Division

FY 2009

ADMINISTRATIVE STATISTICS

- Hunting and Fishing License Sales and Reporting is responsible for revenues totaling over \$20 million annually
- Boat Registration is responsible for revenues totaling over \$6 million annually
- Property Inventory is responsible for ADCNR's personal property valued at over \$51.7 million.
- The Internet and agent point-of-sale system for hunting and fishing licenses continues to be a success.
- 67% of our 433 license agents are electronic and sell 85 percent of our licenses.
- The IT Section continues work on a point-of-sale system for boat registration.

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

The Commissioner is the executive officer of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and provides overall management and guidance for carrying out the Governor's directives and implementing enacted legislation. The Commissioner establishes goals, policies and directions; approves programs and budgets; delegates authority; and provides support to administer the Department efficiently and effectively.

The Commissioner's administrative staff includes an Assistant Commissioner and seven sections that provide administrative support. The administrative support sections are Accounting, Diversity and Recruiting, Engineering, Information and Education, Information Technology, Legal, and Personnel and Payroll. The operational divisions fund the Commissioner's office and administrative staff.

ACCOUNTING

The Accounting Section is the central clearinghouse for all departmental financial data. Accounting maintains and records all receipts and disbursements for the commissioner's office, staff sections and each of the five operating divisions. Accounting is responsible for eight internal functions: general accounting, auditing, budgeting, administrative procurement, hunting and fishing license sales and reporting, boater registration, property inventory and agency office supplies/central mail.

General Accounting includes daily deposits of departmental funds, recording of all expenditures, preparation of monthly financial reports and statements, development of fiscal policies and procedures, reconciliation, coordination and preparation of the annual budget request.

Auditing is responsible for auditing all ADCNR funds, including royalty and commission contracts. Additionally, the section performs fiscal audits of the individual state parks.

Procurement provides purchasing assistance to each administrative section.

Hunting and Fishing License Sales and Reporting is responsible for revenues totaling over \$20 million annually and certifying them into the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and Marine Resources funds.

Boat Registration is responsible for revenues totaling over \$6 million annually and certifying them into the Marine Police fund.

Property Inventory is responsible for ADCNR's personal property valued at over \$51.7 million.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The audit section has currently undertaken an effort to comply with the governor's executive order 33 (energy conservation). A request for proposals was sent out to solicit proposals for a performance contract and a committee was formed to evaluate the proposals. The committee selected Johnson Controls. Plans are presently being formulated for an investment grade energy audit to evaluate potential energy saving opportunities.

Central Accounting's audit personnel continue to work with State Parks on a comprehensive review of the business practices utilized throughout the system.

The Internet and agent point-of-sale system for hunting and fishing licenses continues to be a success. Sixty-seven percent of our 433 license agents are electronic and sell 85 percent of our licenses.

The Information Technology Section continues work on a point-of-sale system for boat registration. Probate offices began using the system in April 2009 with seven counties currently live. Because invalid data slows down the renewal process, work is underway to get the majority of the database cleaned up before other counties begin using the system.

FUTURE PLANS

Although the automated hunting and license system is allowing the capture of demographic information of users of the state's recreational resources, consolidation of the information and retrieval mechanisms must be devised. Without such action, the automated system will be unable to provide timely valuable statistics for management, contact resources to find out what user needs or concerns are, and feedback on current and ongoing projects.

Efforts will continue on a point-of-sale system for boat registration. Without a fully functioning new system, boat registration data will continue to be compromised.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES

DCNR Total
ACTUAL
2009

DCNR Total
BUDGETED
2010

DCNR Total
REQUESTED
2011

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	1,179	1,295	1,269
UNENCUMBERED CASH BALANCE FORWARD	41,421,964	33,519,401	19,647,739
Total Federal Funding	58,151,634	48,602,783	58,828,324

Hunting Licenses	10,680,015	10,676,550	10,676,550
Fishing Licenses	9,045,477	9,211,500	9,211,500
Land Management Fees	6,359,189	7,000,000	7,000,000
User Fees	26,480,356	33,243,303	32,150,945
Boat Registration	6,256,190	6,000,000	6,000,000
Timber Sales	533,754	550,000	650,000
Fines	1,025,111	1,040,000	1,040,000
Trust Fund Interest	816,812	597,830	755,154
Other	659,169	1,641,910	476,371
Total Departmental Related Receipts	61,856,073	69,961,093	67,960,520

Cigarette Tax	3,428,185	3,000,000	3,600,000
Gasoline Tax, Would go to DOT if DCNR did not Receive	3,559,173	3,640,000	3,640,000
Use Tax Discount Cap, All but State Lands Required, State Lands Coastal Program discontinued if funding lost.	1,056,847	1,282,119	1,016,614
Sales Tax Discount Cap	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
General Fund (Alabama Blackbelt Initiative)		275,000	
GOMESA	6,179,076		
Marine Resources Restoration	425		
DCNR Transfers	50,000	50,000	50,000
Forever Wild Land	425,000	675,000	425,000
Total Other Receipts	19,698,706	13,922,119	13,731,614

Administrative Transfer	7,448,592	10,240,318	9,632,550
Actual All Receipts	147,155,005	142,726,313	150,153,008
BFY 2008-2010 Expenditures	155,057,568	156,597,975	156,049,254
Revenues verses Expenditures--Over(Under)	(7,902,563)	(13,871,662)	(5,896,246)

UNENCUMBERED CASH BALANCE	33,519,401	19,647,739	13,751,493
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DIVERSITY AND RECRUITING

The Diversity and Recruiting Section develops and implements programs designed to increase the pool of qualified applicants needed to hire and promote a work force that reflects the cultural and ethnic diversity of the state of Alabama. This section maintains ADCNR's Affirmative Employment Plan, does statewide recruiting, and contracts diversity and other training for the department.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Statewide recruiting.
- Natural Resources Law Enforcement training program for colleges (Internet Classes).
- Regional partnership with Federal agencies.
- Adopt a school/community program for Elementary, Junior High and High School.
- Statewide college internship program.
- Welfare to Work partnership with Alabama Department of Human Resources.
- Diversity and other training for managers and employees on a continuing basis (when funding is available).
- Development of an affirmative employment plan.
- Developed a 10-county college and high school job fair.
- Increased community input into the conservation diversity committee working group by developing and co-chairing a policy review committee, comprised of educators, legislators, and community members to get participation and input on ADCNR's diversity policies going forward. Members include: Trenholm State College Professor Ann Vernon; Alabama State University Director of Theatre Tommie Stewart; State Representative Artis McCambell; State Representative Thomas Jackson; Executive Assistant to Commissioner of Agriculture Jerome Gray; Valvier Bright; and Dean/Professor of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at Auburn University Richard Brinker.

FUTURE PLANS

- Continue developing statewide and regional recruiting.
- Enlarge partnerships with elementary, junior high, and high schools through our Adopt a School program; increase awareness in urban school districts of careers in conservation, and provide a link to outdoor recreational opportunities available in the state of Alabama.

- Work to develop a long-range pilot program for 4-H to recruit minorities in conservation.
- Enlarge our college internship program to include most four-year schools in Alabama where logistically possible.
- Maintain our commitment to the student aide program.
- Continue the natural resources law enforcement training program to include instructors from Alabama State University, Auburn University Montgomery, Alabama A&M University, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region IV, U.S. Treasury Department's ATF Division, and instructors from ADCNR's five operating divisions.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

The Information and Education Section (I&E) provides a variety of creative services for the Department. These include print media such as Outdoor Alabama magazine for paid subscribers; news releases distributed to media outlets; brochures for various Department programs; Web and special video productions; and a weekly outdoors column on the Department's Web site, outdooralabama.com.

Educational services include K-12 conservation education curricula and teacher training programs; in-school conservation programs; and outdoor classroom assistance and certification in cooperation with the Alabama Wildlife Federation. Last year 409 educators completed in-service workshops offered by the Department.

Outreach services include two Becoming an Outdoors Woman weekend workshops a year, coordination of the Outdoor Alabama Expo, and exhibiting at various events.

In addition, I&E provided public relations and publishing consultation as well as editorial, proofreading, and copy writing service for departmental staff; responded to information requests from the public, media and other agencies; drafted documents for department administrators and the Governor's office; coordinated special projects; and acted as liaison to the Governor's Press Office.

FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL

Twelve positions are allocated to I&E and most were filled during FY 2008-2009: one Public Information Manager who served as section chief and editor; one Public Information Manager who wrote

FY 2009 DIVERSITY AND RECRUITING

- Statewide college internship program.
- Developed a 10-county college and high school job fair.
- Continued Statewide Recruiting.

a weekly outdoors column for the Web site and print media; one Public Information Specialist who served as a staff writer and media liaison; one Photographer II who served as staff photographer and a graphic artist; one Artist-Illustrator II who served as graphic artist; one Conservation Education Specialist who coordinated workshops and made educational presentations; one Audio-Visual Specialist III and one Audio-Visual Specialist II who served as videographers and video editors; one Administrative Support Assistant III who provided clerical support for the section; one Departmental Operations Specialist who served as office manager and handled special projects; and one Laborer.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

I&E provided service, material and coordination for promotion of many events during the year including the statewide Outdoor Alabama Expo, Becoming an Outdoors Woman workshops, and the Outdoor Alabama Photo Contest. Photographic and audiovisual services were provided as needed. One hundred and four press releases were written in support of Department activities.

Outdoor Alabama magazine published five issues including the annual Calendar and Conservation Directory. Currently approximately 24,000 paid subscribers are on the mailing list. The Outdoor Alabama Photo Contest drew a record number of entries. The annual publication of the photos in the February issue is extremely popular with readers. For the third year, the photos were exhibited in several venues across the state, giving them even more exposure.

The Outdoor Alabama Nature Shop is available online offering products that range from wildlife pins to t-shirts, caps, books and toys.

FUTURE PLANS

- Continue the popular Outdoor Alabama photo contest with winners published in the magazine. The winning artwork is displayed in different venues around the state.
- Continue working with State Parks to promote their Web site.
- Produce informational and instructional videos for the Department's Web site.
- Maintain a Department Facebook page and explore promotional opportunities with social media outlets.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology Section provides computer hardware, software, and networking services for the Department. Hardware services include set up and installation of new desktop and notebook computers, management of department servers, and installation and support for printers, monitors, and scanners.

Software services include new Web-based application development, analysis, design and support for the Department's E-Gov applications, support for all mainframe applications, including ad hoc reporting from the accounting and personnel systems, and support and maintenance of the Department's Web site. GIS services are currently provided including software and licensing.

Networking services include support for all wired and wireless technologies used throughout the department. IT support is also provided for email through the state email system.

FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL

The staff of 11 includes an IT Manager, Programmer/Analysts, System Specialists and Technicians. During FY 2009, two contract positions were used to assist with E-Gov application design and support.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Information Technology provided service, coordination, consultation and support for many Department projects including the hunting and fishing license point of sale system, harvest data collection, alligator hunt registration, State Parks online reservation system, lapsed hunter and angler data analysis projects, the conservation officers operations reporting system, the Outdoor Alabama and AlaPark eNewsletters and Web sites. Significant improvements were made in streamlining production and ad hoc mainframe jobs. IT also supported projects throughout Alabama including the annual archery tournament for schools held in Birmingham and support for public Advisory Board meetings.

FUTURE PLANS

- Continue to develop Web-based applications to provide better public access and reduce paper driven processes.
- Research possible uses of wireless technologies in the State Parks, Enforcement, and the district offices.
- Develop online Boat Registration Renewal systems and an agent point-of-sale system.
- Provide technical support for implementation of property management system in Alabama State Parks.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

Last year 409 educators completed in-service workshops offered by the Department. Two Becoming an Outdoors-Woman workshops were coordinated by I&E staff.

ENGINEERING

The Engineering Section administered over \$25 million in contracts both initiated and coordinated in FY 2008-2009.

The Engineering Section continues to produce a digital archive of plans and maps which was previously only available in paper format. This digital archive includes files dating back to the early 1800s, through CCC plans to present day projects.

LEGAL

The Legal Section provides advice and counsel directly to the commissioner and assistant commissioner, and as a staff function, provides legal services to the directors of the five operational divisions and other ADCNR staff.

The drafting of contracts, inter-agency agreements, deeds, leases, patents, permits and attorney general opinions are also responsibilities of the Legal Section. Litigation against the ADCNR and employees as well as litigation initiated by the Department is also handled by the legal staff.

The Legal Section drafts, reviews and monitors legislation affecting the department. regulations for management and enforcement efforts of divisions are drafted and approved for execution and followed through the adoption process.

The section is responsible for real estate transactions involving land owned or managed by the Department and for the legal work associated with the state's oil and gas leasing activity and other natural resource management activities.

PERSONNEL AND PAYROLL

The Personnel and Payroll Section provides personnel-related support services to the Commissioner's office, Division Directors, and Section Chiefs.

The section serves as liaison to the State Personnel Department for Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' personnel actions and activities.

The section is responsible for processing all payrolls, as well as maintaining all employee files and payroll records, for the Department's hourly and semi-monthly personnel.

ENGINEERING

The Engineering Section provides professional planning, programming, engineering, architectural, landscape architectural, surveying, cartographic and related administrative services to the various divisions of the department. These professional services best protect the state's natural resources by providing parks, recreational opportunities and services. The section's professional staff of engineers, architects, landscape architect and land surveyors ensures

that solutions to conservation planning and programming, design and construction problems, and the development of departmental projects are integrated with ecologically functional and aesthetic aspects within the confines of economic feasibility.

FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL

The Engineering Section had 28 employees during FY 2008-2009: one Chief of Engineering Services, one Architect II, two Professional Land Surveyor IIIs, one Landscape Architect, two Design Technician Supervisors, one Graduate Engineer, one Legal Research Assistant, one Clerk Stenographer III, one Conservation Construction Inspector I, one Land Survey Technician, one Design Technician, one Design Assistant II Survey Assistant, one Plant Maintenance Supervisor III, two Carpenter Supervisors, one Mason, one Electrician, six Carpenters and one Retired State Employee. The section's facilities are located in Montgomery and Oak Mountain State Park.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Engineering Section continued to provide on-site professional and technical support in the rebuilding of property and structures damaged or destroyed by storm activity from Category 3 Hurricanes Gustav and Ike and other declared events. Coordination with FEMA continues, along with work with local communities and other federal, state and local agencies. The Engineering Section administered over \$25 million in contracts both initiated and coordinated FY 2008-2009.

Engineering Section programs consist of providing the necessary professional expertise required to reach department goals. These programs include capital and improvement, using both out-source and in-house design, in-house construction, master planning and site planning for department facilities. General technical assistance is also performed including construction document preparation, project status reports, annual reports, replies to correspondence, feasibility studies, advisement on proper repair and operation manuals, providing file information, technical field assistance, emergency project involvement, dam inspections, specification writing for material and equipment purchases, field maintenance and training assistance.

Engineering was also involved with surveying assistance and technical advice on construction projects, boundaries and property corners for State Parks, delineation and location of oyster reefs, public access areas, wildlife management areas, public lakes and other state-

managed property. Approximately 30 percent of Engineering Section time was spent on technical assistance of a general nature involving various Department activities requiring engineering input.

The Engineering Section continues to assist the commissioner's office and the State Parks Division in the advertising for, and selection of private architectural/engineering firms to prepare documents for the State Parks Restoration Program. The section remains as a coordinating liaison between the Department of Conservation and these private firms to communicate the needs of the Department and to ensure their inclusion into the completed plans.

ADMINISTRATIVE

General: provided location maps; completed numerous banners, posters, retirement certificates and appreciation awards; continued to update the Engineering Section's digital filing system; provided assistance and support in the Parks renovation program; continued section's complete archival file scanning and production of digital format plan archives; assisted in deed reviews and acreage estimation for the purchase of new lands and/or lease procurements.

Marine Police:

- **Mobile County:** plans produced for Brookley Field boat slip.
- **Baldwin County:** coordinated mold removal at Alabama Point facilities.
- **Guntersville Reservoir:** performed contract administration for PWC/patrol boat berths.

Marine Resources:

- **Claude Peteet Mariculture Center:** canal dock facility continued performance of designs; assisted and consulted with repair of various dock and boat facilities.

State Lands:

- **Grand Bay Tracts, Fort Morgan, Lillian Tracts, Baldwin County:** property line surveys; fire lane construction.
- **Madison County:** Bice Mt. property line survey.
- **Bullock County:** provided year-end inspection of new dormitory facilities; coordinated various construction projects with Engineering construction crew.
- **State Cattle Farm:** provided recommendations for renovations to existing facilities at Greensboro.
- **5 Rivers Delta Resource Center:** coordination of construction

of utilities, roads and buildings; topographical surveys and completed plans of permeable pavement phase II project.

- **General:** assisted in navigability research and provided plats for oil and gas lease tracts with acreage estimation.
- **Weeks Bay:** completed administration of construction of multi-purpose building; administered contract for site master plan.
- **Department of Corrections:** requested land management assistance.

State Parks:

- **DeSoto:** campground and bathhouses, project let and under construction; provided construction recommendations for reroofing work on park office building.
- **Chewacla:** continued work on design of campground improvements; performed suitability and site location study and preliminary engineering for H80 rated crossing at Towne Creek.
- **Joe Wheeler:** continued construction document development for renovation work at the lodge and hotel; assisted in resolution of motel unit moisture problems and exterior balcony recommendations; administered reroofing of multiple park structures caused by hail damage.
- **Lakepoint Resort:** continued coordination of reroofing, and renovations to, the camp store building; continued administration of work with consultants for renovation of lodge, cabins, marina, and site improvements; completed construction and administration of transient docks; worked with consultant on campground renovation.
- **Meaher:** campground project let and near completion; bathhouse project let and under construction.
- **Oak Mountain:** coordinated interior and exterior renovations to the Wildlife Rescue Center building; continued administration of work with consultants preparing design documents for master plan and improvements; administered construction phase II of renovation to the Interpretive Center; campground project in design phase; continued evaluation of erosion and sediment control at fishing lake; worked on plans for ADA fishing lake in cooperation with community partners.
- **Rickwood Caverns:** campground project in design phase.
- **Lake Guntersville Resort:** continued to administer work with ongoing overall lodge and park improvements-substantially completed construction phase and opened to public; completed construction and administration of transient docks project; provided additional survey and topographic

information for park improvement projects; performed property line surveys; performed project management and oversight of golf course renovation with consultant completed renovation of tees greens and practice facilities; installed new irrigation system and pump facilities; provided programming, design, documentation of new chalet to replace chalet destroyed by fire; provided assistance with lawsuit brought about by lodge contractor against state and consulting architect; completed plans for ADA fishing lake in cooperation with community partners.

- **Frank Jackson:** completed design and construction documents for 1.7 mile trail, advertised project for bids; this work includes survey and topographic information for this and other improvement projects at this site; performed property line surveys.
- **Roland Cooper:** sewage outfall system completed.
- **Wind Creek:** campground preliminary design phase completed.
- **Monte Sano:** campground plans and construction documents completed.
- **Gulf Resort:** building/campground store/pool renovation contract in progress; parking lot survey and topo; pier and beach survey and topo; Gulf State Park Pier project was completed; sand dune rehabilitation planning in conjunction with NOAA and FEMA, project permitted; continued to administer/work with consultants preparing design documents for park improvements; continued to participate in master planning and lodge/conference center improvements; completed intake structure for saltwater feed line; continue to provide survey and topographic information for park improvement projects; performed property line surveys; continued to work with local authorities by design, consultation and coordination for trail improvements and links to city trails and park trail systems.
- **Checked and marked property lines at the following:** Wind Creek, Chewacla, Gulf, Lake Guntersville and DeSoto.
- **General:** conducted research/plans for various other parks; performed preliminary investigations and project scope for various park improvement projects working with consultants; continued production/update of brochure maps for State Parks; produced and administered aerial mapping project of all state parks and continued to provide assistance in consultant selection for ongoing parks renovation program; provided assistance for parks master planning program.
- Numerous projects completed under \$50,000 in upgrading and repairing facilities throughout the State Park System; this required intensive participation by the Chief of Engineering

Services, the statewide construction crew and other Engineering staff.

Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries:

- **Landowner Incentive:** consulted on future streambank restoration projects, reviewed plans.
- **Freedom Hills Management Area:** performed property line surveys.
- **Check and mark property lines at the following:** Freedom Hills WMA, James D. Martin WMA, Barbour WMA, Chambers County Lake, Lee County Lake, Madison County Lake, Fayette County Lake.
- **Bonner's Point Boat Ramp:** survey and topo.
- **Cullman Archery Range:** survey and topo.
- **Northport building:** survey and topo.
- **State Lakes:** assisted with campground improvements, construction phase completed at DeKalb County.
- **Hatcheries:** completed over eight projects under \$50,000 for facilities at the Marion State Fish Hatchery.
- **Fisheries:** parking resurfacing at B.B. Comer and Brown's Creek Boat Launch; Elk River Boat Ramp, Lauderdale County, performed preliminary design; Shoal Creek Boat Ramp, design permitting phase.
- **Law Enforcement:** provided digital files for hunter education and location maps; prepared updated management area maps; provided digital state WMA map for the Department of Transportation; performed property line surveys for numerous properties under the control of this division.
- **Wildlife:** continued GIS discussion and application work; updated/produced all state WMA maps; produced statewide management area map inserts; aided in other various projects for this section including digitizing and acreage determination.

FUTURE PLANS

The Engineering Section plans to continue assistance and coordination of ongoing storm-related repairs, reconstruction and continues coordination with FEMA and insurance settlements. Will consult with State Parks for the identification, upgrading and construction of Accessible Destinations Initiative. Continue surveying property lines for State Parks, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and other critical locations involving the department. The section also plans to provide master planning, programming, design and contract administration for future construction projects including the ongoing renovation program of the State Parks Division and other divisions, surveys of public access areas, maintenance of existing department facilities, and design and construction of new facilities when possible.





Marine Police Division

The Marine Police Division's mission is to enhance safety and promote responsible use of resources on Alabama's waterways through enforcement, education and community activities for approximately one million boaters on the state's 1.3 million acres of recreational waters.

The Marine Police Division's mission is to enhance safety and promote responsible use of resources on Alabama's waterways through enforcement, education and community activities for approximately one million boaters on the state's 1.3 million acres of recreational waters. Functions of the Marine Police Division, in addition to routine safety patrol, include registration of all pleasure boats, licensing of all boat operators, boat and marine accessory theft, a statewide boating education program, and assisting other state, local and federal officers in enforcement activities relating to homeland security, maritime and waterway smuggling, drug interdiction, and other serious crimes committed in the marine environment. The Marine Police Division also administers the waterway hazard and control marking program, presently overseeing 1,639 hazard and control markers and zones.

This program is handled in the field by less than 60 Marine Police Officers using one-officer patrol craft who each cover over 23,000 surface acres. Field enforcement officers are responsible for all patrol activities, regulatory/navigational markers, and public education within their assigned areas. Administration of the Marine Police Division is the responsibility of its Director, John Thomas Jenkins. The Director's staff consists of the Chief Law Enforcement Officer/Chief of Operations, who oversees all activities of the patrol officers, district supervisors, and the day to day administrative activities of the Division. An enforcement section chief, an education/public information section chief, a supply/inventory officer, and the administrative unit, which provides budgetary, fiscal, logistical and maintenance support, comprise the administrative staff.

The boat registration unit assists the Marine Police Division by overseeing registration and records retention of approximately 400,000 boats. The boat registration unit, along with other administrative personnel, also supports the boat theft unit, which consists of two Marine Police officers assigned statewide. Recovery of stolen property such as boats, motors and accessory equipment is a function of the boat theft unit.

FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL

The Marine Police Division maintains headquarters, a maintenance shop and warehouse in Montgomery. The state is divided into four districts for enforcement purposes. Four district headquarters are maintained at Lake Guntersville

State Park, Alpine, Wind Creek State Park, and Alabama Point. These headquarters provide contact sites for the boating public, education program locations, and training facilities for district personnel. In FY 2008-2009, the Marine Police Division operated with 74 employees statewide. This included 60 uniformed officers, nine clerical personnel, two marine mechanics, one painter, two laborers, and the division director.

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

For FY 2009, the Marine Police Division was authorized a budget of \$10,358,471. Total expenditures amounted to \$8,121,329. These funds were generated from boat registration fees, enforcement fines, marine fuel tax, and the boating safety assistance program from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Coast Guard.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Marine Police Division celebrated 50 years as a division this year.
- More than 41,123 persons successfully completed the online boating courses and the Basic Boating Course taught by Marine Police officers and 29,285 boat operator licenses were issued by the Department of Public Safety. By the end of FY 2009, a total of 691,669 operator licenses were on file.
- Officer Richard Miller, the Division's Outreach Officer, was named the State of Alabama's Executive Branch Employee of the Year.
- Sgt. Gary Buchanan was named the Division's Officer of the Year.
- Sarah Butler, with the Division's Accounting Section, was selected as the Marine Police Division's Administrative Employee of the Year.
- The Division implemented a Special Agent program to assist with marine sanitation device inspections. The Special Agents, usually affiliated with a marina, are trained and certified by the Division to conduct these inspections and issue yearly inspection decals to the boat owner.
- Awarded two Homeland Security grants for one patrol boat each for the Port of Guntersville and the Port of Mobile.
- Purchased an airboat, utilizing a Homeland Security grant,

for multi-divisional operations.

- All Marine Police Officers completed the federally mandated Incident Command System (ICS) training in levels 100, 200, 700, and 800. In addition to this training, supervisors were mandated to also attend ICS level 300 and 400.
- Alabama Power Company contributed a \$40,000 grant to be used to promote public safety on the 12 Alabama Power Company impoundments.
- Four new officers were employed during this fiscal year and one officer transferred from another division.
- The "Three Lakes Law" was implemented this year. To date, 19 permits have been issued, all for vessels on Lake Martin.

ENFORCEMENT

In the year 2008-2009, Marine Police Officers were on patrol for 30,171 hours. There were 15,272 vessel contacts that resulted in 2,677 arrests and 4,404 written warnings. Drinking and operating under the influence of alcohol or drugs remained a problem on Alabama's waterways resulting in 106 arrests for boating or driving under the influence of alcohol and 10 arrests for illegal possession of drugs. Seventy-two arrests were made for illegal possession of alcohol and 68 arrests were made for minor in possession of alcohol. Additionally, 148 citations were written for careless/reckless operation of a vessel or personal watercraft.

Marine Police officers performed 441 hours of search and rescue and assists to boaters. Marine Police officers were called upon by other law enforcement agencies for 322 hours of assistance with various duties. There were 171 marine events permitted by the Division, resulting in 567 hours of security patrol.

Marine Police officers remain under orders to patrol all critical infrastructure sites on the water that are considered to be potential terrorist targets. All officers have received training on the deployment of special teams in the event of a terrorist threat. Approximately 3,512 hours were expended on Homeland Security patrols.

The boat theft investigators opened 42 cases and closed 24 felony cases of boat theft in FY 2008-2009.

Officers investigated 110 boating accidents that resulted in 12 fatalities for the fiscal year.

In addition to routine patrol, Marine Police Officers can volunteer for duty on specialized teams, such as the Disaster Response Team (DRT) or the Dive Team. The DRT is in the process of being revamped. Instead of drawing from a specialized team of 21 officers, officers from all areas of the state will be called to duty and given a chance to participate. The DRT responds to emergency situations such as floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes or by an activation call from Emergency Management Agencies. In addition, the Marine Police Division has been partnering with the Department of Public Safety to develop a statewide Search and Recovery Dive Team and has participated with them in a murder investigation that necessitated dive operations for weapon and body recovery.



MARINE POLICE

More than 41,123 persons successfully completed the online course and the Basic Boating Course taught by Marine Police officers in 2009. The boat registration unit assists the Marine Police Division by overseeing registration and records retention of approximately 400,000 boats.

FY 2009 BOAT REGISTRATION STATISTICS

Total Number of Boats

Registered	271,906
Ownership Transfers Processed	25,256

2008-2009 MARINE POLICE LAW ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

- Routine Patrol30,171 hours
- Homeland Security Patrol.....3,512 hours
- Search and Rescue and Assists to Boaters... 441 hours
- Vessel Contacts 15,272
- Arrests..... 2,677
 - 106 for boating under the influence of alcohol
 - 72 for illegal possession of alcohol
 - 148 citations for careless/reckless operation of a vessel/personal watercraft
 - 10 for illegal possession of drugs
- Written Warnings..... 4,404
- Boating Accidents110
- Fatalities 12
- The Boat Theft Investigators opened 42 cases and closed 24 felony cases of boat theft in 2009.
- Marine police presently oversee 1639 hazard and control markers and zones.
- Officers inspected 857 marine sanitation devices on both recreational and residential vessels

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Education Section of the Alabama Marine Police Division continues in a joint cooperative venture with the State Department of Education, Driver Education Section, with the implementation of the boating education taught in the driver education classes. Compliance continued to increase during the 2007-2008 school year, with both departments working hard to achieve the 100 percent participation, which was mandated by the Boating Safety Reform Act of 1994. Marine Police furnishes training to the driver education instructors, participates in a series of workshops at various sites throughout the state and also supplies instructional materials such as manuals, pamphlets, videos and speakers to ensure a successful program.

The Marine Police Division and the Department of Public Safety, Driver License Division, continue to work together to license the boaters of Alabama. The Marine Police Division provides training for the driver license examiners and study guides for citizens to study for the written exam, which is conducted by the Department of Public Safety. Because the state approved online boating course, www.boat-ed.com, which was implemented as another alternative for the vessel license requirement, received such a healthy response, the Division approved an additional online course, www.boaterexam.com. The new course provides an alternative to the existing course and is proving to be very popular, especially with younger boaters. Additional printed materials and videos were acquired for use in providing public education for the marine community.

Marine Police personnel taught 72 boating courses during the year 2008-2009. Officers conducted 649 public education programs and presentations with 240,647 persons in attendance. Marine Police patrol equipment and static displays were manned at public schools, boat shows, safety fairs, and other functions throughout the state. In order to address safety issues with personal watercraft operators, the Division manufactured a personal watercraft simulator. This simulator is used to illustrate safe handling procedures, navigation rules and other laws pertaining to personal watercraft and was very popular at the venues where it was utilized.

Radio and television appearances by Marine Police officers amounted to 118, and 360 newspaper and magazine articles were published statewide. The Information and Education Section teamed with the Marine Police Division to develop a new public service announcement, aimed at encouraging the use of life jackets. The PSA, featuring Aubie and Big Al, will be distributed statewide in November and is part of a continuing campaign that will culminate in a children's life jacket give-away program. Time expended on educational functions by the officers totaled 5,402 hours with 90,000 units of boating literature distributed to the public. Officers dedicated 316 hours to placing, replacing, and repairing 128 aids to navigation on

Alabama's waterways.

In accordance with the Marine Sewage Act of October 2003, Marine Police Officers inspected 857 marine sanitation devices on both recreational and residential vessels, and issued yearly inspection decals.

A multi-agency program, The Clean Waters Initiative, was formed to address not only the Marine Sewage Act, but also the public's concerns for clean water. This initiative will help the public understand how legislation like the Sewage Act impacts them and the environment. Awareness efforts were done throughout the year at different public venues. Marine Police Officers have also been working closely with State Lands' Coastal Section with the development and implementation of the Clean Marina Act.

BOAT REGISTRATION

The Boat Registration Unit is responsible for registration and records retention of approximately 400,000 boats. The total number of boats registered in FY 2008-2009 was 271,906. In addition, 25,256 ownership transfers were processed and 3,113 replacements were issued.

Alabama ranks 17th in the nation for total number of vessels registered. The boat registration unit also assists the boat theft unit, which consists of three Marine Police officers assigned statewide.

PROBLEMS/SOLUTIONS

The most significant problems facing the Marine Police Division are a critical shortage of enforcement personnel due to resignations and retirements, upgrading outdated equipment, and the continuing downward trend of the economy. Thirty additional officers will be needed over the next four to five years to bring the Division to an effective level. The cost to accomplish this is estimated at \$1.6 million. With the turnover of experienced personnel and the additional responsibility of providing security and safety for critical infrastructure sites on the water in partnership with the Homeland Security Department, at least a 50 percent increase in personnel is necessary.

To address this, the Division has been exploring measures such as utilizing alternate patrol techniques to minimize costs and maximize manpower. The Division has also been engaging in partnerships with other enforcement divisions within the department and with other state and federal agencies in order to maximize manpower and assets. In addition to professional partnerships, the Marine Police Division will continue to seek out other private/public partnerships and opportunities. These partnerships will enhance the Division's ability to perform certain functions with a minimum outlay of manpower and resources.

The Division has also been working with the Information Technology Section on developing an online reporting system that became operational in October 2009. This system should prove to be a cost and time saver for the Division's officers.

FUTURE PLANS

The Division goals and objectives for FY 2009-2010 are as follows:

- Purchase one patrol boat to replace older model boat, which will be placed in service elsewhere.
- Obtain from the manufacturer, boats designated by the Homeland Security grant funds.
- Purchase three enforcement vehicles to replace high mileage vehicles currently in use.
- Send four candidates, at no cost, to the Marine Patrol Officer Course (MPOC) at the U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Training Center at Charleston, S.C.
- Begin certification of officers in the NASBLA approved Boat Operation and Training Program (BOAT), which is a national professional boat handlers accreditation course.
- Reduce the number of boating accidents resulting in fatalities and injuries.
- Work with Accounting and Information Technology sections to continue to update antiquated boat registration system and implement and refine new online renewal and registration system.
- Introduce boat theft legislation and legislation to increase reportable property damage amounts on damage only accidents to \$2,000.
- Introduce legislation on disposal of litter, garbage and trash from a vessel.
- Introduce the "Boat Theft Bill" legislation.
- PSA with Big Al and Aubie and billboard campaign combined with life jacket give away program.



FY 2009 MARINE POLICE STATISTICS

- The Marine Police Division celebrated 50 years as a division this year.
- More than 41,123 persons successfully completed the online boating courses and the Basic Boating Course.
- 29,285 boat operator licenses were issued by the Department of Public Safety.
- Four new officers were employed during FY 2008-09 and one officer transferred from another division.



Marine Resources Division

The Marine Resources Division (MRD) is responsible for the management of Alabama's marine fisheries resources through research and enforcement programs. Two division facilities supported an average of 61 employees of the Administrative, Enforcement, and Fisheries Sections during FY 2009.

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

A total expenditure of \$22,159,585 was made from the approved budget of \$26,287,257. Revenue of \$22,561,862 was made up from federal aid (86 percent), license fees (10 percent), marine gas tax (1 percent), and other sources (3 percent). This, plus a cash forward balance of \$580,903 provided funding of \$23,142,765 for the FY.

The Administrative Section expended \$492,457 on salaries and benefits and \$691,193 on all other charges for an administrative expenses total of \$1,183,650. Other expenditures handled by this section included a total of \$692,632 for administrative transfer payments to Montgomery. This represented a grand total of \$1,876,282.

Expenditures for the Enforcement Section totaled \$1,727,011 of which \$23,943 was reimbursable by a grant from the National Marine Fisheries Service and \$489,636 was reimbursable under a Joint Enforcement Agreement from NOAA/Office of Law Enforcement.

Fisheries Section expenditures were \$18,556,292, which consisted of funds from 26 federal aid programs and some of which required state matching funds. Federal aid projects varied in state match requirements from zero to 25 percent. Of these expenditures \$2,402,449 were spent for salaries, fringe benefits, equipment and supplies. The remainder was spent on research and management including programs under the Emergency Disaster Recovery Program (EDRP I & II), the Ivan Oyster Recovery program, and boating access area up-keep, renovation, and construction.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

The lack of adequate quantities of high salinity water for rearing marine fishes such as red snapper at the CPMC continued. Hurricane Ivan destroyed the intake structure, pump station, and portions of the pipeline that supplied water to CPMC. A contract was awarded and construction began in November 2007. After construction setbacks caused by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, reconstruction of the intake system was completed in the Spring of 2009; full utilization was not achieved until the completion of the Gulf State Park Pier (GSPP) in July 2009.

The issue of permitting of Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) facilities offshore from Alabama remained an issue in FY 2009 particularly

regarding the use of "open loop" systems to warm the liquid for transport to market.

MRD's Fisheries Section experienced significant changes within the ranks of its managing biologists by the retirement of the Chief Biologist (Biologist V) and the oyster biologist (Biologist III). Four biologists were hired to fill vacant Biologist II positions and to help redirect supervisory and project activities.

Severe drought conditions and the proliferation of key predators during the past two years, coupled with damages caused by recent storm events, decimated Alabama's oyster reefs; minimizing recent recovery efforts. During 2009, MRD closed all public reefs to the harvest of oysters until such time that the reefs can sustain commercial harvest. MRD is taking this time to revise its oyster management plan and is working with fishery participants to rebuild Alabama's oyster reefs.

ADMINISTRATION SECTION

The Administrative Section provides supervision, clerical, purchasing, and general administrative support for the two operational sections; supervises state seismic activities; and coordinates with other state, federal and regional agencies on fisheries and environmental matters.

Staff for the Administrative Section consisted of the division director, six clerical, one accountant, and one marine mechanic employee. Offices are maintained at Dauphin Island and Gulf Shores.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The U.S. Department of Commerce appropriations budget for FY 2009 contained \$15 million earmarked for cooperative enforcement initiatives between National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) law enforcement and state fisheries law enforcement entities. The Marine Resources Division and NOAA Enforcement entered into a joint enforcement agreement pursuant to the initiative. As part of the agreement, federal dollars are dedicated to increase fisheries law enforcement efforts and compliance with federal fishery regulations along coastal Alabama and the Gulf of Mexico. Fisheries resources are cooperatively protected, managed, and conserved by state and federal governments. The MRD enforcement section received \$489,636 as part of the

agreement. The money was used to purchase one offshore vessel and surveillance equipment that will be strategically located in coastal Alabama. Additionally, it provided funding to increase patrol hours for MRD officers.

Enforcement officers conducted 17,349 hours of boat and shore patrol, 10,112 boat checks, 1,659 seafood shop inspections, 27,804 recreational fisherman checks, 5,689 commercial fishermen checks, and issued 2,092 citations and warnings for illegal activities. Fifty-seven percent of the citations and warnings (1,184) were for violations of recreational fishing laws and regulations. Violations of commercial fishing laws and regulations (218) comprised 10 percent of the citations and warnings issued. Officers also issued citations and warnings for 323 violations of boating safety laws and regulations, 157 wildlife and freshwater fisheries, and 228 citations for other state and federal laws and regulations. A total of 14,059 hours was spent on administrative duties, court attendance, training, and equipment maintenance. Officers worked 6,058 hours with the National Marine Fisheries Services interjurisdictional fisheries enforcement program.

Enforcement officers continued to improve and expand the Coastwatch Program, established for the training of citizens to recognize and report violations of saltwater fishing laws and regulations. Information from Coastwatch members has assisted with the planning of enforcement patrols and deployment of manpower and other resources resulting in saved man-hours by not responding to inaccurate reports of violations. To date, 230 citizens have been trained at 34 training sessions held in Mobile, Baldwin, and Jefferson counties. The response to the program continues to be very positive.

Officers attended training courses on boat handling, criminal investigation, computer forensics, criminal law update, environmental crimes enforcement, suicide terrorism, self-defense, supervision, and other state and federal agency law enforcement programs. Officers continued to enhance public outreach efforts to better communicate enforcement efforts to provide important information and to foster cooperative management initiatives.

The Marine Resources Enforcement Section worked with the other Divisions in our Department to develop a Conservation Officer Operations Reporting System (COORS). The COORS system will greatly reduce the amount of time officers spend performing administrative duties. The officers' reports are completed and reviewed online; this data is calculated to allow for better analytics of the enforcement activities. A fleet management module of the COORS program will allow for real time maintenance cost analysis and tabulation to allow for more efficient maintenance of equipment. Subsistence claims are sent directly to accounting to save on processing costs. The COORS system was implemented beginning the week of September 26, 2009.

The Marine Resources Division, in conjunction with the University of Alabama and the Administrative Office of Courts, has developed an electronic e-citation program. The defendant's copy of the electronic citations is printed at the time of issuance in the field and the citation information is transmitted electronically to the court system. Among other items, the system captures the GPS location of all violations and warnings. This information will assist in the planning of patrols to address problem areas.

The Enforcement Section has begun the installation of cameras for the Marine Resources Coastal Remote Monitoring System. The system will place up to 30 high resolution cameras at different locations throughout coastal Alabama. The video will be available through a Web-based portal and will be accessible to officers in the field via a wireless Internet connection. Not only will the officers be able to access the video, they will be able to manipulate the camera through a Web interface. The video will be stored for up to three weeks on secure servers and will be time and date stamped for use as evidence. The sensors will include closed-circuit television, thermal, and inferred cameras.

The 2009 edition of the popular Alabama Marine Information Calendar was produced and distributed. In addition, a calendar depicting conservation related artwork by coastal 4th graders was produced and printed by the Division. The artwork for the calendar was selected through an art contest, hosted by the Division and judged by local specialists in coastal conservation and the arts. The winning selections were also displayed in art museums in both Mobile and Baldwin counties. Receptions were held at each museum for the winning students, their friends, and families.

The 10th year of a cooperative project with Auburn University at Claude Peteet Mariculture Center (CPMC) has resulted in additional refinement of techniques for raising both bait and food shrimp in ponds. These will be used to enhance the production of shrimp on shrimp farms in west-central Alabama.

MRD hosted four fishing outreach days at Claude Peteet Mariculture Center. A total of 72 Alabama children were given the opportunity to fish in a pond at CPMC stocked with red drum. Almost all of the participants caught fish, a few of those for the first time in their lives. In addition to fishing, the children were given a tour of the hatchery operations at CPMC which included viewing a display of fish and invertebrates commonly occurring in Alabama.

During the year, the Fisheries Section collected 1,133 fisheries assessment samples. This data is utilized to afford managers the opportunity to review the populations of the recreational and commercial important species and of lower trophic level species to detect any changes before they affect the overall health of the

FY 2009 MARINE RESOURCES LAW ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

Routine Boat and Shore Patrol	17,349 Hours
Boat Checks	10,112
Seafood Shop Inspections	1,659
Recreational Fisherman Checks.....	27,804
Commercial Fisherman Checks.....	5,689
Citations and Warnings	2,092 Total

MARINE RESOURCES FISHERIES

The Fisheries Section collected 1,133 fisheries assessment samples. A total of 26 habitat assessments were performed, and 5,114 fishermen were interviewed during creel surveys.

MRD hosted four fishing outreach days at Claude Petet Mariculture Center. A total of 72 Alabama children were given the opportunity to fish in a pond at CPMC stocked with red drum.

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The success of the electronic trip ticket computer program continues to grow. Currently 28 Alabama seafood dealers are actively using this program. These dealers contributed over 76 percent of yearly Alabama landings. The computer program allows seafood dealers to enter landings and trip information from commercial fishermen and submit it electronically on a monthly basis. During the past FY, MRD processed and submitted trip ticket data from 15,179 commercial trips reporting 27.9 million pounds of seafood with a dockside value of \$40.1 million.

During FY 2009, MRD staff participated in three large outreach events: the four-day Mobile Boat Show, the two-day Conservation Expo at Oak Mountain State Park, and the one-day Conservation Expo/Bird Festival in Fairhope. These events were conducted in an effort to inform and educate the public about Alabama's marine environment. Saltwater "touch tables" were set up at each event to allow children the opportunity to interact with living marine life and learn about these animals which are commonly found in Alabama's waters. Literature concerning seafood rules and regulations, and calendars were distributed. Children enjoyed the opportunity to complete activity books and use rub plates depicting various forms of aquatic life found within Alabama's waters.

Biologists from the Division continue to participate in the Alabama Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force created in conjunction with the Department of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and authorized by the Governor's Executive Order. This group encompasses all state agencies with interest in or regulation of aquatic nuisance species. The goal of this task force is to produce an Aquatic Nuisance Species Response Plan by early 2010.

MRD continued administration of the Offshore Artificial Reef Program during 2009. This program allows private reef builders a chance to deploy inspected material in United States Army Corps of Engineers permitted offshore areas resulting in the creation of fish habitat. Thirty-six permits were issued during the year containing 325 individual reefs. MRD created three offshore reefs and one reef adjacent to the new Gulf State Park Pier (GSPP) with materials from the old GSPP destroyed by Hurricane Ivan and the new GSPP damaged by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. In addition, 12 pre-fabricated concrete and limestone rock pyramids were deployed within 300 feet of the new pier. This was done to increase habitat for popular finfish species and to increase fishing opportunities for pier anglers.

A spring oyster planting of 1,600 cubic yards of material was accomplished on Cedar Point west and a summer planting of over

15,000 cubic yards in Portersville Bay. The average cost of material has risen to \$50.97 per cubic yard due to extensive oyster rehabilitation projects across the Gulf of Mexico.

FUTURE PLANS

The Division plans to continue development of the inshore artificial reef system particularly in Baldwin Co. As donated material has been greatly reduced in coastal areas of Alabama due to the economic downturn, MRD plans to purchase appropriate material and enhance identified reef sites. MRD will investigate the possibility of receiving permit(s) for nearshore artificial reef zones. These areas, if permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, would provide unique fishing opportunities for Alabama's coastal anglers. Various user groups will be contacted prior to submission of a permit for this activity to maximize success.

The Division will provide financial assistance to the City of Daphne to renovate a boat ramp on the Eastern Shore. This renovation will incorporate an elevated roadway to access the ramp. This unique design is believed to circumvent the current sedimentation problem that occurs along the immediate shoreline which hinders public use of the existing ramp.

MRD will work with the department's Engineering Section, the State Lands Division, and outside contractors to develop plans for the construction and/or renovation projects pertaining to key structures located at the CPMC (Gulf Shores) and Dauphin Island facilities. These projects will consist of the construction of a new multifunctional laboratory and office complex at CPMC, renovation of the boat basins at CPMC and Dauphin Island, and upgrades to enforcement boat docks at Dauphin Island; funding will be provided through the Coastal Impact Assessment Program (CIAP). It is anticipated that the planning and design phase will be completed and a bid will be awarded for construction by the end of FY 2010.

ENFORCEMENT SECTION

The Enforcement Section patrols Alabama's coastal waters, enforcing state and federal laws and regulations relating to the conservation and protection of marine resources. Officers also enforce laws and regulations relating to boating safety and freshwater fishing and hunting, conduct search and rescue missions, and participate in drug interdiction operations. Officers are cross-trained and deputized as National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents. Marine Resources Enforcement

Officers cooperate extensively with these agencies: the United States Coast Guard, and other federal agencies; in the coordination of joint enforcement operations, investigative and fisheries enforcement expertise, training, public safety, and other natural resource issues.

Facilities for the Enforcement Section consist of headquarters at Dauphin Island and a district office in Gulf Shores. There are currently 17 enforcement officers in the section (10 stationed in Mobile Co. and six stationed in Baldwin Co.), two laborers, and the Chief Enforcement Officer stationed at the Dauphin Island headquarters.

FUTURE PLANS

- Continue to develop mechanisms to improve the Coastwatch program and public outreach efforts to better communicate enforcement efforts and important information.
- Continue to develop procedures to enhance the joint enforcement agreement with NOAA, assure that such agreements are implemented in future years, and seek long term funding for agreements.
- Work with other Gulf states and the National Marine Fisheries Service to implement the Gulf-wide strategic fisheries enforcement plan.
- Continue to develop procedures and provide officers with training to enhance Homeland Defense activities.
- Continue to develop and expand the coastwide remote monitoring system and technology upgrades to enhance enforcement monitoring, deployment of enforcement manpower, and biological fishing effort research.

FISHERIES SECTION

The activities of the Fisheries Section are directed toward management of commercial and recreational fisheries in Alabama's marine and estuarine waters. These activities involve cooperative efforts with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in nearshore federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico and with other Gulf of Mexico state agencies to develop cooperative fisheries management programs. These activities are mostly funded through federal aid programs of the U.S. Departments of Commerce (NOAA/NMFS) and Interior (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Biological programs not covered by federal aid such as fish kill evaluation, oyster management, shrimp management, and pollution investigations are supported by commercial and recreational license fees. Fisheries

personnel also assist in oversight of natural gas activities within Alabama's coastal waters, territorial sea, and adjacent federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico and comment on applications for U.S. Army Corps of Engineer permits in the coastal area.

Fisheries facilities consist of the CPMC in Gulf Shores and the MRD Laboratory on Dauphin Island. Personnel consisted of one Biologist V, two Biologist IVs, two Biologist IIIs, four Biologist IIs, one Biologist I, five Senior Biologist Aides, 19 Biologist Aides, and two temporary laborers.

FEDERAL AID

Wallop/Breaux: Wallop/Breaux funds are administered through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Funds from this source were directed toward a creel survey of Alabama's saltwater recreational anglers, production of the 2009 edition of the popular Alabama Marine Information Calendar, children's coastal conservation art calendar, production of the new kids coloring book, maintenance of equipment and facilities in Gulf Shores and Dauphin Island, management of the public artificial fishing reef permit system in the Gulf of Mexico off Alabama, assisting individuals in designing artificial reefs, conducting mariculture research on marine species, maintaining and enhancing boat ramps for boating access, financing research of the ecology of artificial reefs and effects of reef designs with respect to ecology, and the sampling of coastal Alabama fishes to determine stock status. An additional project to coordinate all federal aid programs within the MRD and to coordinate with other Gulf states was also funded from this source.

Fisheries Assessment and Monitoring Program (FAMP): MRD continues to collect legacy data through the FAMP program. This program, implemented in 1981, provides a continuous database of fish and invertebrates captured through independent fishery sampling techniques. This sampling program allows MRD to monitor trends in fishes and invertebrates abundance which are not associated with commercial or recreational fishermen.

Adult Finfish Sampling Program: MRD continues a fishery independent gillnet sampling program. The objective is to gather data on adult fish to be used in the management of important species. Sampling conducted through the use of two gillnet configurations and a stratified, random design. A total of 232 nets sets were conducted, collecting 4,998 finfish representing nine freshwater and 42 saltwater species.

MARINE RESOURCES

Offshore Artificial Reef

Program allows private reef builders a chance to deploy inspected material in US Army Corps of Engineers permitted offshore areas resulting in the creation of fish habitat. Thirty-six permits were issued during the year containing 325 individual reefs.

MARINE RESOURCES FISHERIES

MRD staff participated in three large outreach events reaching thousands of people: the four-day Mobile Boat Show, the two-day Conservation Expo at Oak Mountain State Park, and the one-day Conservation Expo/Bird Festival in Fairhope.

Emergency Disaster Relief Program: Over \$4.3 million was distributed in FY 2009 to participants in the commercial and for-hire fisheries through cooperative research. Over \$6 million was distributed to seafood related industries to assist in recovery of financial losses.

An assessment of the red drum stocks was submitted to the Commissioner.

Cooperative Statistics: Federal aid funds for this program are administered by the Department of Commerce (NOAA Fisheries) and are utilized by the MRD to collect fisheries-dependent data on commercial shrimp, oyster, crab and finfish landings. Additionally, information on processed seafood such as crab meat and mullet is compiled. Biological information was collected on striped mullet, flounder, Spanish mackerel, grouper, and red snapper. Commercial seafood license data was forwarded to NOAA Fisheries under this grant.

Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP): Funds from this program are administered by the Department of Commerce (NOAA/NMFS) and are utilized in Alabama for the development of a long term fishery-independent database on recreationally and commercially important marine and estuarine fishery stocks. This project provides funds to assist in management of the Alabama shrimp fishery, as well as, to evaluate spawning success and juvenile survival for important recreational and commercial species. In 2009, 23 off-shore, 40-foot trawl samples and 12 nearshore ichthyoplankton samples were collected. Routine quarterly inshore sampling was conducted in state waters resulting in the collection of 23 trawl, six seine, and seven beam plankton trawl samples. Increases in funding has allowed for the addition of bi-monthly samples resulting in the collection of 117 trawls 29 seine and 35 beam plankton trawl samples.

Inshore Roving Creel Survey: The survey uses non-uniform probability roving creel sampling methods based on aerial overflight counts to sample the marine recreational fishery in coastal Alabama. Goals of the survey include characterization of Alabama's coastal recreational boat fishers and their catch. Biological information from fishermen's catch are helpful for determining health of fish stocks. A total of 2,513 interviews were conducted during this survey.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

The Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS): Funding for this project is provided through a subgrant from the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. NMFS utilizes this survey to gather trip level catch and effort information for shore, charter and private boat anglers throughout the United States.

Data generated from the survey is used by fisheries managers throughout its scope of coverage. MRD has a subcontract to conduct the portion of MRFSS which collects data from anglers after they have completed their fishing trips and interviews charter boat captains for effort. Division personnel completed 2,601 fishermen interviews during 2009.

Otolith Sampling Program: Funding for this project is provided through a subgrant from the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC). MRD continued collection of otoliths (ear stones) from species given high priority for sampling including red snapper, greater amberjack, king mackerel, and southern and gulf flounder caught by commercial and recreational fishermen. Otoliths are used to age fish, which is important information used to determine the health of fish stocks. A total of 2,031 otoliths were collected during 2009.

Commercial Trip Ticket Program: Funding for this program is provided through the GSMFC. This program is part of a Gulf-wide effort to generate more specific information for each commercial fishery by collecting landings and effort data from each fishing trip. Trip tickets are printed in triplicate form and supplied to Alabama seafood dealers. Seafood dealers are required to complete the trip ticket for each transaction. An alternative form of submission is through an electronic entry program which allows seafood dealers to enter landings and trip information and submit it via the Internet on a monthly basis. Data from the completed trip tickets are scanned into a computer, verified and edited. Monthly data is submitted to the GSMFC and will ultimately be supplied to NOAA Fisheries.

Hurricane Ivan Relief Funds: Funds obtained by the Marine Resources Division in the aftermath of the damage caused by Hurricane Ivan were used to plant 1,600 yards in deep areas of Cedar Point West Reef utilizing a local contractor. This project exhausted the funds under this grant and the completion report has been submitted.

Emergency Disaster Relief Program: In recent years, MRD worked with legislators, the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and neighboring state agencies to secure through two grants totaling roughly \$44 million in NOAA fishery recovery funds. The monies are being used to clean up and restore oyster and shrimp grounds affected by recent hurricanes and to monitor the recovery of associated fisheries. Over \$4.3 million was distributed in FY 2009 to participants in the commercial and for-hire fisheries through cooperative research. Over \$6 million was distributed to seafood

related industries to assist in recovery of financial losses. A total of 15,000 cubic yards of cultch was contracted by the Division for local oystermen to plant in Portersville Bay. Assessment of storm surge on some of our artificial reefs was accomplished through a remotely operated vehicle (ROV). A vessel was chartered from Dauphin Island marina for two trips that recorded 30 videos of various artificial reef structures which included transport cages, concrete triangles and concrete pyramids.

NON-FEDERAL AID

Personnel maintained and improved the home page for the Division, which is associated with and accessed through the Departmental home page at www.outdooralabama.com. The feedback to this site has been extremely positive and it has proven to be a tremendous asset in getting information and assistance to the public.

FUTURE PLANS

- The Fisheries Section will continue to collect appropriate data and work with recreational and commercial fishermen and other resource user groups to provide division administrators with recommendations for strategies and regulations for management.
- Development of mariculture procedures for commercially and recreationally important marine organisms will continue. Cooperative research projects will continue with Auburn University, the Dauphin Island Sealab, and the University of South Alabama. This effort will be enhanced by the rebuilding of the saltwater supply pipeline from the Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores to CPMC.
- Cooperative projects will continue with Auburn University, the Dauphin Island Sealab, and the University of South Alabama to investigate artificial reef benefits and red snapper production enhancement. MRD will continue to construct inshore and offshore artificial reefs as materials and funding allow. Cooperative efforts with groups such as the Saltwater Series Tournament and the Mobile County Wildlife Association will maximize available resources.
- Monthly inshore assessment and monitoring work will continue in order to provide a more comprehensive depiction of Alabama's marine waters and resources.
- Continuation of the MRFSS in Alabama to include creels of anglers on charter boats, private boats, and shorelines and to continue the For-

Hire Telephone Survey to better define effort within the charter fishery.

- Collection of Alabama commercial seafood landings data via Alabama's Trip Ticket Program and the collection of commercial biological fishery dependent data will continue.
- Rehabilitation of Alabama's oyster reefs, decimated by predation and recent drought and storm events, will continue. As part of the rebuilding process, MRD will revise its existing oyster management plan with assistance from Alabama's oyster community. This process is anticipated to achieve significant results.





State Lands Division

The State Lands Division (SLD) manages undeveloped, state-owned trust lands that are specific as to their identity as well as to the income beneficiary.

In FY 2008-09 Forever Wild Land Trust experienced a higher than normal level of land nominations and acquired 71,500 acres.

The State Lands Division (SLD) manages undeveloped, state-owned trust lands that are specific as to their identity as well as to the income beneficiary. The lands are currently identified as Sixteenth Section and Indemnity School Lands of approximately 30,000 acres; approximately 7,000 acres of Mental Health/Mental Retardation Department trust lands; Muscle Shoals Grant Lands of approximately 8,000 acres; and other lands, including submerged lands (inland and coastal) of approximately 600,000 acres. In addition, the SLD manages certain resources on Auburn University, Department of Corrections, Historical Commission, and Department of Transportation lands. Resource uses include oil and gas exploration and development, timber harvesting, farming, coal mining, hunting leases and commercial uses.

The SLD maintains the State Land Resource Information Center, which is the database of all lands owned by the State of Alabama and its departments, agencies and institutions. These records reflect lands acquired, owned, or managed by all state agencies and institutions. Records are submitted by each agency, checked against individual county tax assessment records and entered into the division's Geographic Information System database.

The Forever Wild Public Land Acquisition Program is managed by the SLD at the direction of the program's Board of Trustees. Division personnel provide administrative support including coordination of the assessment and appraisal process, purchase negotiations, land purchase transactions, budget preparation and annual reporting to the governor and legislature. In addition to these administrative services, the SLD also manages many of the Forever Wild tracts, as well as complimentary tracts purchased by the SLD.

The SLD conducts sales of excess state lands pursuant to the State Land Sales and Leasing Act. This law establishes a procedure aimed at assuring that the state receives full fair market value for lands that it sells or leases and that the procedure is open, competitive and subject to public scrutiny.

Alabama's official natural heritage database is maintained by the SLD. Animal and plant species and areas of biological significance that make up the rich natural diversity of our state are identified and inventoried. This effort provides important biological information to conservation organizations, developers, governmental agencies and the public. It also complements the goals of Forever Wild.

The SLD operates four facilities dedicated to conservation and land stewardship educational programs. Located in Spanish Fort, the 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center is a gateway to the tremendous Mobile-Tensaw River Delta. The Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, located in Fairhope, supports education and research activities in the Weeks Bay watershed,

an estuary of national significance. SLD also operates two Wehle Nature Centers, one in Spanish Fort and the other near Midway in Bullock County.

The SLD conducts coastal resource management and planning through the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program (ACAMP). The ACAMP purpose is to promote, improve and safeguard the lands and waters located in Alabama's coastal area through a comprehensive and cooperative program designed to preserve, enhance and develop such valuable resources for the well-being of present and future generations. This program works in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and is federally funded by the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the Department of Commerce. The SLD also operates the Weeks Bay Reserve, a research facility geared to protecting public estuaries. These functions complement the Division's responsibilities for managing submerged lands.

The SLD administers the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) for the State of Alabama. The CIAP is a federally funded program managed by the U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS) designed to mitigate impacts from Outer Continental Shelf activities. Specifically, the SLD implements projects selected by the State of Alabama, and coordinates grant administration activities with the two coastal counties, Baldwin and Mobile.

The SLD coordinates the Department's environmental review and comment process through the management of the Department's environmental review and comment database.

The SLD manages these responsibilities through three principal sections: Administrative, Natural Heritage and Coastal. Specific accomplishments by each section for this past year follow.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Processed numerous nominations for sales and leases of state-owned land pursuant to the provisions of the State Land Sales and Leasing Act. Included in this activity was trust land leased for purposes of hunting.
- Processed requests for oil, gas, and mineral leases on state-owned lands including submerged water bottoms.
- Supported statewide educational activities through sales of timber on school trust lands managed by the Division.

STATE LANDS DIVISION

Sources of Receipts	Total Income
Commercial Leases	\$26,181
Oil and Gas Leases (Royalties)	\$173,514,120
8(g) Payments (Federal offshore shares)	\$8,829,653
Timber Sales	\$981,627
Coal Leases	\$969,547
Coal Gas	\$1,309,099
Misc., Easements, Fees and Permits	\$2,482,531
TOTAL	\$188,112,758

Distribution of State Lands Division Receipts	
Alabama Trust Fund	\$176,122,236
Alabama Department of Education	\$23,246
School Trust Lands	\$2,253,311
Auburn University	\$1,554
Alabama Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation	\$283,046
Lands - Coastal Program	\$3,920

Department of Conservation

State Lands Division	\$5,597,099
State Parks Division	\$59,937
Marine Resources Divisions	\$718

Other State Agencies

General Fund	\$329,805
Alabama Forestry Commission	\$5,925
Alabama Department of Transportation	\$178,867
Alabama Historical Commission	\$2,714,911
Forever Wild	\$4,480

TOTAL **\$188,112,758**

- Administered the Forever Wild Land Trust and State Lands Division acquisition programs and facilitated the purchase of the following 11 acquisitions, totaling 71,500 acres:
 - Lauderdale WMA: Tassin Addition (Lauderdale Co.) 20 acres
 - N. Q. Adams: Tract Addition in (Baldwin Co.) 1,579 acres (FW 479 acres and State Lands Division 1,100 acres)
 - Weeks Bay Reserve: Key Tract Addition (Baldwin Co.) 40 acres
 - Lowndes WMA: Big Swamp Creek Addition (Lowndes Co.) 1,343 acres
 - Old Cahawba Prairie Tract (Dallas Co.)-3,007 acres
 - State Cattle Ranch: State Lands South Addition (Hale Co.)-340 acres
 - Perdido River: SLD Phase III (Baldwin Co.) 2,622 acres
 - Grand Bay Savannah: State Lands Whaley addition (Mobile Co.) 72 acres
 - Escatawpa River watershed: State Lands Frey addition (Mobile Co.) 1,303 acres
 - Mulberry Fork WMA Tract Lease (Walker and Tuscaloosa Co.) 33,280 acres
 - Cahaba River WMA Tract Lease (Shelby and Bibb Co.) 27,894 acres
- Continued the planning and implementation of recreational programs on Forever Wild Tracts.
 - Maintained existing horseback riding and hiking trails, initiated planning of future hiking trails at the Walls of Jericho Forever Wild Tract in Jackson County.
 - Maintained existing horseback riding and hiking trails at Shoal Creek Preserve Forever Wild Tract in Lauderdale County.
 - Maintained existing horseback riding trails at the Wehle Forever Wild Tract in Bullock County.
 - Completed and opened new hiking trails at the Coon Creek Forever Wild Tract in Tallapoosa Co.
 - Hosted expanded public access opportunities, offering 60 Open Woods Days at the Sipsey River Recreation Area Forever Wild Tracts.
- Maintained the existing routes along Bartram Canoe Trail, and initiated planning for new routes and overnight stops extending to the 5 Rivers facility.
- Opened the Field Trial and Dog Training Programs at the State Cattle Ranch in Hale Co.
- Implemented the State of Alabama Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP).
 - Initiated the implementation of the approved CIAP Plan for FY 2007 and FY 2008.
 - Initiated planning for public meetings in association with the development of the FY 2009 and FY 2010 CIAP Plan.
 - Attended grant training workshops sponsored by the Minerals Management Service.
 - Managed the CIAP public participation process as dictated by program guidelines.
 - Developed State of Alabama CIAP projects in cooperation with other ADCNR divisions.
 - Coordinated with the Minerals Management Service and two coastal counties regarding program implementation.
 - Coordinated with the other CIAP States including Alaska, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.
- Coordinated Departmental activities relating to the Natural Resource Damage Assessment program including site inspections and participation in Natural Resource Trustee Council meetings.
- Held the annual Alabama Outdoor Heritage Day, Plant Festival, and Bullock County Kids and Cops day at the Wehle Land Conservation Center in Midway, Alabama.
- Responded to numerous requests from agencies and the public regarding information contained in the Land Resource Information Center (LRIC) database. Staff also worked with a number of state agencies to update information regarding state land ownership.
- Field staff continued routine land management activities including boundary marking, timber cruising, prescribed burning, invasive plant eradication and law enforcement.

**STATE LANDS DIVISION
NATIONAL HERITAGE
SECTION**

**Natural Heritage Section
secured a \$4 million USFWS
Habitat Conservation Plan
grant to purchase and protect
habitat supporting the
federally listed Threatened
Red Hills Salamander
in Monroe Co.**

**5 Rivers 2009 attendance
is estimated at 46,000, in
association with 1,274
unique events.**

5 RIVERS DELTA RESOURCE CENTER

2009 marked the second full year of operations for the 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, whose mission is to serve as a gateway to outdoor recreation, conservation education, and land stewardship in the tremendous Mobile-Tensaw River Delta. This was a year of continued growth for the facility, which has been well received by the public.

- Overall attendance to 5 Rivers in 2009 is estimated at 46,000, in association with 1,274 unique events.
- Recreational offerings at 5 Rivers continued in 2009, including the existing 5 Rivers Outfitters canoe and kayak sales and rental operation, 5 Rivers Delta Safaris, which offers a wide variety of powerboat tours into the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta, as well as a small café with drinks and snacks available for visiting guests.
- Apalachee Exhibit Hall continued to grow its collection of specimens, including the addition of several new exhibits in 2009. The space also hosted the following exhibits:
 - 2009 Outdoor Alabama Photo Contest Winners.
 - Winners of the 2009 Marine Resources Division children's calendar art contest.
- The 5 Rivers facilities collectively were utilized as a premier reception facility and meeting space, hosting over 759 meetings, events and receptions, attended by approximately 41,000 people. The facility hosted an additional 5,000 visitors through the two primary recreation concessions. Revenues from event rentals and concessions totaled \$210,000.
- Cypress Gift Shop continued to build its inventory of unique nature-themed items. Profits from annual sales were \$30,000.

Special Events:

- 5 Rivers served as host site for the 6th Annual Alabama Coastal Birdfest, which drew over 300 participants for four days of guided birding tours.
- Delta Woods and Waters event, in partnership with the City of Spanish Fort.

NATURAL HERITAGE SECTION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Natural Heritage Section (NHS) maintained the internet interface of the NHS database. The NHS DB is now maintained as a sequel server database accessible via a secure internet web site for approved users in the ADCNR.

- Staff biologists continued biodiversity survey work, participated in trail planning and continued collecting detailed GPS/GIS data of the Forever Wild tracts to aid with the management and research of these tracts. Management actions included prescribed burns, sensitive species re-introduction, and hydrological restoration.
- Personnel secured a \$4 million USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan grant to purchase and protect habitat supporting the federally listed Threatened Red Hills Salamander within Monroe Co., as well as a \$640,000 USFS's Forest Legacy Program grant to purchase and protect unique habitats within the headwaters of the Paint Rock River, adjacent to the Walls of Jericho Tract in Jackson Co.
- Staff continued the process of reviewing new Forever Wild land nominations for biological diversity, ascertaining the availability of all nominated tracts, and providing this information for Forever Wild board meetings. In 2009, Forever Wild experienced a higher than normal level of land nominations.
- Staff supplied information from the NHS database, along with numerous maps and other GIS products, in an effort to improve thorough review of development projects within the state.
- Staff continued active partnerships with federal agencies including conducting Breeding Bird Survey routes, Monitoring Avian Productivity Stations, and RCW monitoring and translocation projects, federal protected plant surveys, research and land acquisition funding opportunities, and aquatic nuisance species problems.
- Conducted prescribed fires to reduce the threat of wildfire and restore native habitat on over 3,000 acres of Forever Wild property.
- Sprayed herbicide to control exotic invasive plants on 10 Forever Wild properties.
- Continued a habitat restoration program to support the only population of red-cockaded woodpeckers, an endangered species, living on state owned land.
- Continued gopher tortoise relocation project at the Wehle tract with preparations to received 50 gopher tortoises from Ft. Benning, Ga.
- Initiated a sandhills restoration effort on state lands in south and central Alabama, in partnership with chapters of The Nature Conservancy.

COASTAL SECTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ALABAMA COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

- Coastal Area Research Grants - During the year, four grant projects were administered in Baldwin and Mobile Co.
- Coastal Resource Improvement Grants - During the year, one grant project was administered in Baldwin Co.
- 306A Low cost public access construction - Completed two public access project to coastal waters in Baldwin and Mobile County.
- Public outreach and education - During the year, eleven O & E projects were administered in Baldwin and Mobile Co.

WEEKS BAY NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

- The Weeks Bay Reserve provided basic functions associated with program Administration and Operations, Research, Education and Outreach, Coastal Training Program/Watershed Project, Stewardship, and the Volunteer Program.
- Highlights for the year included start-up operations for the recently dedicated Tonsmeire Activities Center and the continued implementation of the Baldwin County Education grant.

STATE LANDS

Prescribed fires to reduce the threat of wildfire and restore native habitat conducted on over 3,000 acres of Forever Wild property.

Gopher tortoise relocation project at the Wehle tract continued with preparations to received 50 gopher tortoises from Ft. Benning, GA.





State Parks Division

The State Parks
Division operates and
maintains 22 state
parks encompassing
approximately 48,000
acres of land and water.
State Parks hosted more
than 3 million guests in
FY 2008-09.

The State Parks Division operates and maintains 22 state parks encompassing approximately 48,000 acres of land and water in Alabama. The parks range from Gulf Coast beaches to Appalachian Mountains providing opportunities and facilities from basic day-use activities, to resort convention lodging, restaurant and golfing areas.

The mission of the Division is to acquire and preserve natural areas; to develop, furnish, operate and maintain recreational facilities, and to extend the public's knowledge of the state's natural environment.

The Division's goals are to manage and operate the State Parks system in an economically sound and efficient manner on the most self-sustaining basis possible; to provide and maintain high quality facilities and services to meet the needs of visitors; to provide an opportunity for personal growth and development of individuals through outdoor experiences; to promote use of State Parks facilities; to preserve unique natural features and integrity of State Parks for future generations and to promote good will and enhance the public image of Alabama, and the Alabama State Parks through dedicated, courteous employees.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The division continued to operate and maintain 22 state parks serving more than 3 million guests annually on a constantly decreasing operational budget. Additional significant accomplishments were made in improving purchasing procedures, computer systems, operation and maintenance policies, financial management analysis, advertising and marketing, natural resource management and the continuous coordination, supervision and implementation of a comprehensive statewide, state parks renovations program.

FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL

Each of the 22 operational state parks has an internal park staff determined by size, development and operation of each area. Total employees for all parks vary from approximately 800 during-peak season to approximately 600 during the off-season.

The Parks Division central office in Montgomery includes six sections: Administrative, Operations and Maintenance, Purchasing, Management Analysis, Natural Resources and Advertising/Marketing, and operates with 16 full-time and three part-time staff.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Lack of sufficient funds for total renovation and repair of aging facilities and replacement of worn out equipment as well as basic operational needs is the major problem for State Parks. A source of steady funding to support facility maintenance and operations is the necessary solution to this problem. It is hoped that increased park utilization and revenue generated as stimulated by the progressing renovations will help this situation, but additional funding that keeps pace with increasing operating costs is required.

MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS SECTION

The responsibilities and functions of the Management Analysis Section are to provide general administrative direction and coordination for management control, administrative cost analysis, performance reporting, data processing, general accounting, budgeting, payables, receivables, and purchasing.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Section personnel received, processed and analyzed 2,184 performance reports for all state parks; prepared Park System Performance Reports as required by the Budget Management Act; received, processed and analyzed operations plans, budget reports and related reports; prepared Park System Operation Plans and fiscal year budgets; processed approximately \$35,450,509 in receipts and 14,376 payment vouchers; and disbursed 14,169 warrants and approximately 14,500 payroll checks through and from the State Accounting System.

Section staff also continuously monitored data processing output, distributed it to statewide park cost centers, and monitored managerial audits as well as personnel actual versus budget for each state park. Management Analysis is continuing to work with Central Accounting Data Processing and developing detailed monthly financial statements as it relates to overall financial aspects of the State Parks System as well as specific operations. Management Analysis continued to revise resale inventory procedures to promote better accountability.

FUTURE PLANS

- Increase programming to streamline automated accounting at park level in order to monitor business and personnel.

- Continue to improve monthly financial reports generated through IT Data Processing to aid managers in making financial decisions relating to business and personnel.
- Analyze individual park facilities to determine the cost effectiveness.
- Continued Implementation of Megasys Hospitality System.
- Implementation of hourly employee timesheet programs.

NATURAL RESOURCES SECTION

The Natural Resources Section was created in 1982 to manage the natural, scientific and biological aspects of all State Park land and water areas. Administrative functions include protecting, managing and enhancing state parks' natural resources and providing opportunities for public access and enjoyment of natural resource areas via nature trails, environmental programs and special events. This section also coordinates in-house State Parks grants administration.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

State Parks are normally thought of as land and water areas of some natural or scenic significance, set aside for public enjoyment. It is within this concept that the Natural Resources Section strives to provide opportunities for park guests to better understand and enjoy these various natural wonders. Many park guests are entertained and educated through interpretive recreational activities and environmental education programs each year. Interpretive naturalist programs are conducted at Gulf, Oak Mountain, DeSoto, and Lake Guntersville State Parks. The park naturalists assisted with a variety of public outreach programs, audio-visual and live presentation programs on tree identification, waterfowl, songbirds, raptors and other environmental topics; updated hiking and nature trail maps, assisted in upgrading trails statewide and trail planning at Frank Jackson, Wind Creek, Chewacla, Lake Guntersville and Oak Mountain State Parks. Natural Resources personnel also assisted Tourism and Travel in the creation of a "Passport to Fitness Walking" brochure highlighting state parks trails and served on the Alabama Birding Trails Advisory Committee. This committee, made up of different resource agencies, will expand birding trail locations within Alabama.

Natural Resources staff produced articles for publication; helped plan, organize and participate in the annual Park Naturalist meeting, planned several Earth Day activities, maintained and improved the bi-weekly Park Naturalist Information Coordination Programs, and consulted with and served on boards of environmental organizations.

Further planning towards establishing classes through the Wildland Fire Academy was established for wildland urban interface

involving the communities of Gulf Shores, Orange Beach and Gulf State Park.

Section Personnel also coordinated and conducted a variety of research programs pertaining to white-tail deer over-population at Oak Mountain and Lake Guntersville, and assisted in conducting four deer population reduction public hunts at Oak Mountain State Park. Natural Resource personnel coordinated a white-tail deer herd health check at Lake Guntersville State Park involving U.S.D.A. Wildlife Services.

Natural Resources staff also participated in Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Nongame Wildlife program events, Forever Wild Land Acquisition evaluations, Conservation Expo 2008 event and Regional Fishing Day events. Staff also coordinated a sea oat harvesting and restoration program for beach habitat enhancement at Gulf State Park and further construction of firebreaks within the Park. Section staff also worked at securing other federal funds for a number of habitat enhancement projects on the coast. These grant funds, derived from the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), will concentrate funds for further longleaf pine restoration, environmental education, firebreak trails and land management corridors within the park.

Staff coordinated scientific collection permit requests for various park locations; conducted fish management programs at Lake Lurleen, Frank Jackson and Oak Mountain; conducted aquatic vegetation reduction programs in various State Park lakes; coordinated diseased timber removal statewide; assisted with forest insect research projects; conducted forest fire danger notification and suppression programs and coordinated contract preparation, timber marking and removal following storm damage at various state parks.

The Section also continued its successful landscape/ecosystem management program designed to improve park recreational potential, forest health and wildlife habitat. In the past fiscal year, fuel reduction/wildlife habitat enhancement prescribe burns were completed in five State Parks and totaled 407 acres. In addition, timber stand improvement/wildlife habitat enhancement thinning and salvage operations were conducted on two parks that totaled 57 acres. Tree planting initiatives on approximately 11 acres were also accomplished. Natural Resources personnel reviewed and commented on hundreds of environmental compliance permit requests and reviewed and approved numerous collection permit applications where appropriate. Land encroachment, boundary line disputes/discrepancies and conflicts are handled continuously. In this effort, the section continues to upgrade Alabama State Parks deed files to establish procedures to maintain verified boundaries. Trapping and relocation of giant Canada Geese also continues, as necessary, in various State Parks.

STATE PARKS NATURAL RESOURCES SECTIONS

**Natural Resource Section
coordinated a white-tail
deer herd health check at
Lake Guntersville State Park
involving USDA Wildlife
Services.**

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

The section continues to face the problem of insufficient funding for serious problems such as correcting lake siltation at numerous parks, expanding the environmental education program, constructing much-needed nature centers, conducting white-tail deer overpopulation research programs and initiating a greatly needed and long overdue park boundary survey and marking program which will incorporate external firebreaks. Funds have not been available for these projects, and solutions are still being sought.

FUTURE PLANS

- Expand environmental education and interpretative facilities, activities and staff as needs and funds justify.
- Recommend construction of a nature center at Lake Guntersville; redesign Oak Mountain's nature center (in progress) add an interpretive program and possible facility at Joe Wheeler State Park, continue construction of natural habitat exhibits, and expand the nature center at Gulf State Park (in progress).
- Increase special winter events.
- Expand park timber and understory plant management to improve wildlife habitat carrying capacity, park aesthetics and natural, native ecosystem integrity.
- Manage healthy wildlife populations compatible with habitat carrying capacity and enhance public wildlife observation opportunities.
- Manage aquatic programs for environmental quality and public enjoyment.
- Facilitate more training opportunities for parks' field personnel in wildland fire behavior and prescription burn practices.
- Seek greater awareness of State Parks through articles in magazines and other publications.
- Assist in the production of trail maps and natural resource management brochures and increase public communication to strengthen environmental responsibility among park guests.
- Collect more field data through Geographical Information Systems to enable State Parks to more adequately inventory natural resources and produce color-coded maps of significant importance.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE SECTION

The Operations and Maintenance Section provides daily supervision of park managers and superintendents to ensure that more than 3 million annual park visitors enjoy high quality recreation facilities and services. The Operations and Maintenance Section staff logs many hours in the field inspecting facilities and equipment, investigating complaints and providing guidance to field personnel.

Several sections within the division, including the Operations and Maintenance Section, are utilizing part-time retired state employees to offset personnel shortages. The retired workers bring a wealth of experience and dedication but are only part-time and of a temporary nature.

Four merit system positions were filled after interview and recommendation from the Operations and Maintenance Section.

Law enforcement training was conducted and coordinated by the Operations' staff for 41 state officers.

More than 1,368 accident/incident/offense and arrest reports were submitted by the Parks to this section for review and analysis.

Section staff investigated and made recommendations on 30 Board of Adjustment Claims that were filed against the State Parks Division. The section staff represented the State Parks Division at Board of Adjustment hearings and testified concerning these claims before the board.

Section staff managed a division-wide personal property inventory, in cooperation with the Departmental Property Inventory Section, of 5,444 inventory items valued at \$14,892,073. Section staff provides daily management of the personal property inventory system and processes all additions and deletions to the system.

Section staff manages the property insurance program for the division and processed 20 claims during the year. Continual review of insurance coverage is ongoing by the staff to insure that adequate coverage is maintained on 831 State Parks structures.

An ongoing State Parks inspection program provides inspection checklists, inspections schedules, responsibilities for inspections and record keeping guidelines. This program will ensure all levels of management are looking at the important elements of our mission and will provide continuity between the various levels of supervision.

A staff housing policy that incorporates several separate memorandums and oral guidance was established and formalized during the year. The policy outlines responsibilities, maintenance, inspection, rental rates and record keeping. The policy also incorporates a rental agreement form to be signed by both parties. This policy will provide definitive guidance for all parties involved in staff

housing management.

In October 2008 Alabama State Parks purchased a new property management system called Megasy. This system will give the park guest a tool to make online reservations for Alabama State Parks, and give park management a tool to track guest and groups that use the parks system. Eleven of the 22 parks have Wi-Fi Internet access.

The State Parks Operations and Maintenance Section Staff and Construction Crew worked on or completed the following projects in 2008:

- **Cathedral Caverns State Park:**
 - Remodeled staff house for park manager.
- **Frank Jackson State Park:**
 - Construction crew upgraded a number of campsites.
- **Gulf Resort State Park:**
 - The new pier was opened for business.
- **Guntersville State Park:**
 - Put up new handrails on some of the chalets.
- **Lakepoint Resort State Park:**
 - Upgraded bathhouses in campground.

STATE PARKS PROMOTIONS

The Alabama State Parks Promotions Section was created in 1983 to coordinate the overall advertising, marketing and promotional efforts of the Alabama State Parks system. The section currently employs three people in the Montgomery office.

Administrative functions include coordination of radio and television public service announcements; preparation and distribution of promotional literature; coordination of print and photographic material for magazines, campground directories, and newspaper articles; cooperation and coordination with the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel, chambers of commerce, convention and visitors bureaus, tourist association and special events promoters; evaluation of advertising opportunities; purchasing of advertising space; production of ads and advertising materials; assistance with individual State Parks promotional efforts; participation in travel shows, sport and boat shows, special events, and the National Fair exhibits; continuous updating of photos; presentation of programs for various organizations; and the operation of the central reservations state park service to the public.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Department's I&E Section produced a radio spot that was placed in all the major markets throughout the state in the spring of 2009. The State Parks provided \$200 gift cards that were given away by the radio stations as part of the promotion. This enabled us to get extra spots throughout the campaign.

The Promotions Section attended many consumer shows: the seven-day Tampa Super Show, the largest camping and RV show in the country; the Atlanta Camping and RV show; the 2009 Birmingham Boat Show; and the Camping and RV show in Montgomery.

The Promotions Section participated in Macy's "Turn Over A New Leaf" promotion, which turned into a \$4,000 contribution that was used for an ad campaign on ABC 33/40. The ad campaign lasted approximately 5 weeks, and we also were invited to appear on "The Talk of Alabama" on ABC 33/40 for four weeks. This included a feature on DeSoto State Park.

Beginning July, we launched an Internet promotion called the FAB 5 Promotion. The promotion highlighted Five Fabulous Fun-Filled Family Vacation Destinations. The Internet promotion opened the way to appearances on television in every Alabama market. Radio stations and newspaper articles throughout the state informed Alabamians about the promotion, which gives certificates for a free night in the five parks to qualifying visitors. Several cable access television stations extended invitations to talk about the promotion. Luckie & Co. in Birmingham estimated \$41,181 as the publicity value received from the promotion. Approximately 900 Fab 5 certificates have already been awarded.

Alabama Journey, the official triple AAA Magazine for Alabama did a feature story on the Alabama State Parks in 2009.

In early October, the Promotions Section launched another promotion intended to keep the State Parks before the public's eye in the media throughout the state. With 2009 being the 70th anniversary of the Alabama State Parks a fall promotion was kicked off recognizing the parks reaching this milestone achievement. The promotion lasted seven weeks. It consisted of seven birthday parties at seven different state parks with an eighth finale party held at Lake Guntersville State Park on November 20. Parks with lodge hotels hosting a party gave a special 30 percent discount on rooms, which meant visitors only paid 70 percent of the normal summertime rate. Luckie & Co. estimated the publicity value of the promotion at \$87,747. Live TV was secured from Fox 6 in Birmingham and Channel 54 in Huntsville. A segment of "Absolutely Alabama" was dedicated to the promotion and was filmed at Lakepoint State Park in Eufaula in October.

State Parks had a booth at the National Fair in Montgomery, as well

STATE PARKS SECTIONS

2000 Outdoor Alabama Expo, held at Oak Mountain State Park near Birmingham, hosted more than 7,000 visitors.

2009 was the 70th anniversary of Alabama State Parks

as the spring and fall Atlanta Camping & RV Show. The Promotions Section also participated in the Alabama Advantage displays at the State Capitol.

A special press release was prepared for release during November highlighting international tourists now visiting our Alabama State Parks. We anticipate many newspapers and magazines, as well as Web sites, will post the article.

The Promotions Section continued to improve and reprint brochures to satisfy the public's interest and the growing tourism industry in Alabama. While the lack of funds decreased the amount of printing done in 2009, a new Joe Wheeler brochure was designed for print in 2009, and a new design for Cheaha was begun. A newly designed rate brochure was produced in 2009 that provided a fresh look.

The Promotions Section hosted a meeting with some of our volunteers in December at Lake Guntersville State Park. The meeting allowed us to receive input and ideas from the volunteers on the state of our volunteer program and how we can improve it. Volunteers are essential to the operation of many of our State Parks.

The Promotions Section participated in the state employee's orientation program in 2009.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Lack of adequate staff and funding are two of the problems the Promotions Section faces every year. However, this past year the slow down in the economy made things even more difficult. Practically all print ads that were placed in 2008 were eliminated in 2009. This included ads that had been placed for years. The one ad campaign we had on a Birmingham TV station would not have been possible without our section participating in the Macy's Department store "Turn Over A New Leaf" promotion, and in turn receiving a \$4,000 donation that was used to finance the ad campaign. While we tried to keep our brochures available to the public and those tourism outlets that help us distribute them, we did have fewer printed this year than in previous years.

By trading some weekend vacations for featured ads and stories, we were able to secure some articles in print. While the lack of funds hurt, it did allow us to be more creative with our internet promotions such as the Fab 5 promotion and our 70th Birthday of the State Parks promotion. Both of these efforts provided thousands of dollars worth of exposure in the media with very few dollars actually spent.

FUTURE PLANS

A continued effort will be directed toward revision of each State Park color brochure. Some re-design is planned for the Cheaha brochure, as well as a new color brochure for Lakepoint State Park.

We will be participating in the Tampa Super RV Show in January. This is the largest RV show in the country. We will once again produce a State Parks calendar as our promotional item to use. In addition, we will also participate in the Alabama National Fair in Montgomery and the spring and fall Camping Shows in Atlanta. Next year, we will hold another car show at Wind Creek and hopefully, we will have our first at Cheaha Mountain State Park.

We will continue to develop productive and interesting Internet promotions that will improve business and provide the Promotions Section opportunities to be on TV and radio stations that are interested in what we are trying to do at the Alabama State Parks.

PURCHASING SECTION

The State Parks Purchasing Section handles all purchasing activities for 22 State Parks, six golf courses and five motel and lodge complexes.

Money for these purchases comes from various sources such as: park revenues, bond money, timber sales, donations, insurance claims, grants and other funds.

Our purchasing office maintains a record of purchases, assists in paying vendors and works with all other sections in the Parks Administration. We work with the Management Analysis Section to assure accurate accounting data for payments. Our office works closely with Operations and Maintenance Section on various projects, including emergency insurance claims, making sure inventory numbers are assigned, and assisting with website updates and e-newsletters. We maintain records of purchases, as well as payment of those purchases and insure the accuracy of the requisitions and payment vouchers from all of our parks throughout the state. We work with Promotions Section on promoting State Parks by making updates on the Web site, assisting with brochures, e-newsletters and photographs to promote the parks. We assist the Natural Resources Section with purchases for their section, including such items as: tree planting, herbicide treatments, controlled burns and forest-mulching contracts.

The Purchasing Section has a limited staff, which consists of one supervisor, one full-time clerical and one part-time clerical employee. We operate under the laws and guidelines established by the Code of Alabama, Title 41, and the policies and procedures established by the Alabama Department of Finance.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Accomplishments for the Purchasing Office for FY 2009 include: routine purchases, emergency purchases and annual agreements. Most purchases were of a routine nature to continue operations during the tough economic times we have experienced the last couple of years. Such purchases include: linen services, water testing services, uniforms, chemicals for the golf courses, mowing and landscaping service contracts, equipment purchases, building materials to maintain facilities and routine services such as garbage service, pest control and portable toilet services.

Some purchases from special funds during the year included: numerous restaurant and lodge items, such as linens, pots and pans, china, dinnerware, and hotel items needed to re-open Lakepoint State Park Lodge after its complete renovation, contracts with Alabama Technology Network and Black Box for Lakepoint State Park's new voice over IP phone system, and purchases of equipment and services to implement the new Megasys reservation system within the State Parks.

FUTURE PLANS

- Continue to provide purchasing services to parks and lodges for their daily needs, as well as during renovations, emergencies and ongoing projects.
- Continue to be of service to support the Alabama State Parks system in areas of need.
- Continue to work with the Finance Department and Purchasing Division to obtain products and services and provide payment to vendors in an efficient manner.



**STATE PARKS
SECTIONS**

The new pier at Gulf State
Park was opened this
summer for business.



- 1 - Bladon Springs
- 2 - Blue Springs
- 3 - Buck's Pocket
- 4 - Cathedral Caverns
- 5 - Cheaha
- 6 - Chewacla
- 7 - Chickasaw
- 8 - DeSoto
- 9 - Florala
- 10 - Frank Jackson
- 11 - Gulf
- 12 - Joe Wheeler
- 13 - Lake Guntersville
- 14 - Lake Lurleen
- 15 - Lakepoint
- 16 - Meaher
- 17 - Monte Sano
- 18 - Oak Mountain
- 19 - Paul M. Grist
- 20 - Rickwood Caverns
- 21 - Roland Cooper
- 22 - Wind Creek





Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division

The Wildlife and
Freshwater Fisheries
Division, charged by
law with protection,
management and
enhancement of the
state's fish and wildlife
resources, is composed
of the Administrative,
Enforcement, Fisheries,
and Wildlife Sections.

The Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, charged by law with protection, management and enhancement of the state's fish and wildlife resources, is composed of the Administrative, Enforcement, Fisheries, and Wildlife Sections. The Division meets these responsibilities by carrying out coordinated, scientifically-sound enforcement, management, research, development, and educational programs designed to ensure protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife populations and habitats for the sustainable benefit of the people of Alabama.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The legislature passed a bill that allows Alabama to participate in a multistate violator compact.

The Youth Dove Hunting Program had 31 sites across the state with approximately 1,684 participants, 25 percent of whom were first time hunters. The Community Fishing Program conducted 63 events with over 15,629 participants.

Construction of the Cullman Community Archery Park concluded during April 2009.

During the year, the Division initiated an adaptive challenge exercise to meet the future needs of the Division. The core question to be answered was, "What are the things we can do to operate more effectively in order to meet public demands for service within available funding?" Employees were asked for suggestions to answer the above question. As a result, over 500 suggestions were submitted. Changes underway include reducing the number of districts from six to five, closing the Prattville office, developing a nuisance wildlife policy to better serve the public, and cross-utilizing selected Marine Police Officers on the WFF payroll for three months during peak hunting season.

ADMINISTRATIVE

The Administrative Section carried out support services regarding personnel, budget, accounting, licenses, and property management. Activities were monitored and documentation maintained to ensure compliance with Federal Aid requirements. Planning and coordination of Division programs were conducted. Staff members served on committees, attended meetings and answered correspondence to coordinate activities with those of other organizations.

There are 11 staff members in the section: one Wildlife

and Freshwater Fisheries Director, one Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Assistant Director, one Aircraft Pilot II, one Conservation Management Analyst, one Biologist IV, two Biologist IIs, one Accounting Technician I, one ASA III, and two ASA IIs.

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY

State Wildlife Grants and the Landowner Incentive Program are two relatively new federal funding sources intended to focus management on declining wildlife species and avoid their eventual listing under the Endangered Species Act. Federal funding to the State Wildlife Grants program in FY 2009 was \$934,107. These funds are used to support various research and species restoration efforts, including establishment of the Aquatic Biodiversity Center (administered by the Fisheries Section) and implementation of the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. For FY 2009, the Landowner Incentive Program received funding to support longleaf pine ecosystem restoration projects on private lands through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (\$25,000) and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (\$300,000). Existing Landowner Incentive Program funds are used for fish and wildlife habitat enhancement and restoration on private lands in the Paint Rock, Coosa, Cahaba and Choctawhatchee river basins and in association with the longleaf pine ecosystem. These programs are administered by two Biologists in the Administrative Section who work closely with Wildlife Section and Fisheries Section staff. Both programs interact with and engage a broad range of partners, including Federal and State agencies, Universities, NGOs and private landowners.

ENFORCEMENT

The Law Enforcement Section of the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries assists in the management and enhancement of Alabama's wildlife and freshwater fish resources through a sound enforcement program.

FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL

The Law Enforcement Section is headquartered in the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries office in Montgomery. This office is staffed by the Chief Enforcement Officer, an Assistant Chief of Operations, two Administrative

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES FOR WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES DIVISION

Section Name	Budgeted Amount*	Expenditures
Administrative	\$ 1,000,760	\$ 868,036
Enforcement	\$13,466,434	\$12,657,230
Fisheries	\$ 7,261,292	\$6,401,200
Wildlife	\$ 10,018,176	\$8,555,244
Wildlife Diversity	\$ 1,919,807	\$ 1,925,568
Transferred to Department Administrative Transfer	\$ 2,748,374	\$ 2,110,806
Total	\$36,414,843	\$32,518,084

**Funding includes Federal Aid in Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration monies apportioned to Alabama based on the state's geographical size and hunting and fishing license sales. Wildlife Diversity Budget vs. Expenditures differences are due to the completion of a prior year grant.*

FY 2009 WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES LAW ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

Arrests	9,044
Warnings	967

**WFF Enforcement officers responded to over 22,900 calls for service through our six district offices and the Montgomery headquarters.*

Captains, two ASA IIs, one ASA III, an Account Clerk and five Police Communications Officers. The Montgomery staff processes vehicle repairs; orders, receives and issues supplies and equipment; issues permits; conducts investigations; coordinates training; provides information to officers and the public regarding laws and regulations; provides guidance to officers and the general public on enforcement issues; and performs other duties involving the enforcement program.

The field staff is organized into six districts with a captain as supervisor and two lieutenants as assistant supervisors. Each district supervisor is assigned to a district office. Districts vary in size from nine to 12 counties with generally two officers in each county. The section has an investigative unit staffed with one lieutenant as supervisor (vacant) and four investigator positions (three vacant) that have the rank of sergeant. A special task force consists of retired conservation officers who are Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training certified. These officers are employed on a part time basis and are used in problem areas of the state or where vacancies exist. The Law Enforcement Section is authorized 131 uniformed field officers. Eighteen of these positions are sergeants (three are vacant) who are field supervisors. Due to retirements and resignations, the Section currently has 14 field officer, three sergeant and two lieutenant positions that are vacant.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Officer Joel Hendron of Geneva County received the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Officer of the Year Award for Alabama.
- Sgt. Jon Sims of Lee County received the National Wild Turkey Federation's Officer of the Year Award.
- Officer Brad Gavins of Shelby County received the Alabama Wildlife Federation Officer of the Year Award.
- Officer Bryan Fisher of Walker County received the Shikar Safari International's Wildlife Officer of the Year Award.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ARRESTS AND WARNINGS:

- Officers made 9,044 arrests and issued 967 warnings during FY 2008-2009, the majority being for

violations of fish and wildlife regulations with the remainder being for violations of Marine Resource, Marine Police and other state laws.

- Responded to over 22,900 calls for service through our six district offices and the Montgomery headquarters.

TRAINING OF OFFICERS AND SUPERVISORS:

- Hosted Southeastern Association of Wildlife Investigators Training Academy for 20 students from five states, TVA and Canada.
- In-house training to all officers on electrofishing and locating and prosecuting bait cases.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES:

- Twenty-five new patrol vehicles equipped with narrow band capable VHF radios and emergency lights. All vehicles were most fuel efficient model available in their class. Eight supervisor vehicles were converted from trucks to more fuel efficient and less expensive sedans.
- Five fuel efficient Mercury outboard motors to refit existing vessels.
- Ninety-eight model 35 Glock handguns to finish replacement of aging service weapons. New handguns were paid for in large part through trade in value of older firearms.

RECRUITMENT:

- Two Conservation Officers were hired and successfully completed the Alabama Peace Officer Standards and Training Academy and are assigned to Bibb and Perry counties.
- One Marine Police Officer transferred to the Enforcement Section on temporary assignment in Tuscaloosa County during the months of November through January.
- One Marine Police Officer transferred to the Enforcement Section and was assigned to Sumter County.
- Utilized seven part-time Conservation Officers to serve in vacant counties and in areas of high activity.

WILDLIFE SECTION

The Wildlife Section received \$417,326 of federal aid funds for projects on fish and wildlife species eligible for funding under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act.

FUTURE PLANS:

- Implement new staffing and district model to maintain a high level of service within budget constraints.
- Continue downsizing of vehicles and vessels to more fuel efficient models in order to utilize limited funds more effectively.
- Continue efforts to utilize cross training opportunities with other department sections.
- Establish a field training officer program.
- Upgrade electronic data processing and equip field staff with computer capabilities to allow electronic reporting and issuance of citations.
- Evaluate and update employee responsibilities and results for the purpose of performance appraisal.
- Establish defensive driving training course for officers.

FISHERIES

The Fisheries Section's mission is to protect, conserve and increase the freshwater aquatic resources of Alabama.

FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL

There are 72 staff members in the Section including fisheries biologists, fisheries biologist aides, malacologists, account clerks, administrative support assistants, building maintenance supervisors, a carpenter, equipment operators and laborers. Fisheries Section facilities include six permanent district offices with laboratories. The Section has three sport fish hatcheries and one hatchery dedicated to producing mussels, snails and fish species of concern, with hatching and holding buildings, personnel residences and storage buildings. Twenty-three state-owned public fishing lakes in 20 counties have a total surface area of 1,912 acres. Nineteen of the 20 locations have a concession building, storage building, and in some cases, a residence.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Technical Assistance: District fisheries biologists conducted 629 biological checks of private ponds. Individuals requesting assistance were given appropriate solutions in writing to problems. The Fisheries Section reviewed, investigated and commented on 66 water-related permits and environmental impact statements. Written comments were provided to the appropriate agencies. Numerous staff members participated

in meetings concerning the relicensing of Alabama Power Company hydroelectric projects. District biologists investigated 16 reported fish kills and cases of pollution. Formal reports prepared by the investigators were sent to the appropriate agencies.

Public Fishing Lakes: A total of 149,711 anglers fished in these lakes, and a total of 401,819 fish weighing 222,278 pounds were harvested. Each angler averaged 2.7 fish and 1.5 pounds of per angler trip. These figures represent an increase of 26 percent and six percent, respectively, from the number and weight of fish harvested in FY 2008. The number of anglers fishing on Alabama's Public Fishing Lakes decreased 0.5 percent from FY 2008.

Fisheries biologists and support personnel made 565 visits to State Lakes to evaluate fish populations, to conduct general management checks, to complete facility maintenance and to otherwise insure good fishing.

Alabama Fish Hatcheries stocked a total of 2,200,030 fish into Alabama's State Lakes. Species stocked include: black crappie, bluegill sunfish, redear sunfish, channel catfish, largemouth bass, and white amur. Rainbow trout were stocked into Madison County Lake from private sources.

A new lake manager was hired at Escambia County Lake. Coffee County Lake facilities were renovated and the lake was re-opened to the public under management by the City of Elba. Lake manager contracts were renewed at Bibb, DeKalb and Monroe County Lakes. Pike County Lake was re-opened to fishing with no lake manager. A new concession building was purchased for DeKalb County Lake. Renovation of camping facilities at DeKalb County Lake was completed. Overcrowded fish populations continue to suppress sportfish production and harvest. Marginal treatments were conducted at Upper Clay, Monroe and Washington County Lakes to improve panfish populations.

Access Areas: During the year, 1,062 (203 by District personnel) routine maintenance and inspection visits of 120 access areas were made by Fisheries Section personnel. More than \$925,118 of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries funds were obligated to develop and maintain boating access areas in FY 2009. Major accomplishments include the following: Cullman Co. Park (Cullman Co.): striped parking lot; Lion's Park (Cullman Co.): striped parking lot, Town Creek (Marshall Co.): replaced courtesy pier; Tensaw (Baldwin Co.): replaced decking on courtesy pier; Claiborne (Monroe Co.): replaced

TABLE 1.
FISH STOCKED DURING FY 2009 IN PUBLIC
WATERS THROUGH THE FISHERIES SECTION'S
PROGRAMS

Species	Inch Group	Number
Largemouth Bass - Florida	1-3	470,120
Largemouth Bass - Northern	2-19	5,347
Smallmouth Bass	2-3	20,616
Striped Bass - Gulf Race	1-2	785,656
Hybrid Striped Bass	1-2	324,730
Channel Catfish	4-17	138,558
Bluegill	1-7	1,896,443
Alligator Gar	6-16	594
Black Crappie	2-5	315,430
White Amur (Grass Carp)	10-19	1,071
Rainbow Trout	8-12	24,531
Redear Sunfish	1	207,390

existing boat ramp; Opposite Mile (Marshall Co.): replaced one boat ramp slab; Beech Creek (Marshall Co.): replaced decking on courtesy pier; Mud Creek (Jackson Co.): replaced one boat ramp slab; Shoal Creek (Lauderdale Co.): restriped parking lot; Triana (Madison Co.): restriped parking lot, Cedar Bluff (Cherokee Co.): restriped parking lot; Binion Creek (Tuscaloosa Co.): restriped parking lot; Choccalotta Bay (Baldwin Co.): restriped parking lot; Cliff's Landing (Baldwin Co.): restriped parking lot; McIntosh Bluff (Washington Co.): restriped parking lot; Steele Creek (Mobile Co.): restriped parking lot; South Sauty Creek (Jackson Co.): repaired parking lot, Cahaba River Access (Perry Co.): repaired parking lot; Cedar Bluff (Cherokee Co.): restriped parking lot; Comer Bridge (Jackson Co.): repaired parking lot; Leesburg (Cherokee Co.): restriped parking lot; Rainbow Landing (Etowah Co.): restriped parking lot, Childersburg Access (Talladega Co.): restriped parking lot; Glover's Ferry (Talladega Co.): restriped parking lot; Kelly Creek (St. Clair Co.): restriped parking lot; Lay Dam (Chilton Co.): restriped parking lot; Lay Lake Access (Shelby Co.): restriped parking lot; Beeswax (Shelby Co.): repaired parking lot; and Lay Dam (Chilton Co.): repaired parking lot. Other work included installation of directional and logo signs, litter removal, repairing parking lots, repairing piers and access area ground maintenance.

Fish Hatcheries: The Carbon Hill, Eastaboga and Marion State fish hatcheries distributed 36,941 largemouth bass and 335,375 bream to 91 new private ponds (277.75 acres), 41 renovated old ponds (180.25 acres) and 1 pond (4.0 acres) which needed corrective restocking of largemouth bass fingerlings. Fish were also stocked into public waters statewide through the Fisheries Section's programs, including public fishing lakes, that totaled 4,190,486. See Table 1.

The Department discontinued stocking farm ponds at the end of FY 2009. Since 1926, the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, formerly the Game and Fish Division, has stocked 42,390 farm ponds totaling 147,692.09 acres in Alabama. The farm pond stocking program was initiated by the Legislature in 1923, which funded the construction of the Eastaboga Hatchery by nonresident freshwater fishing license sales. The Eastaboga Hatchery began distributing fish fingerlings to farm pond owners almost 83 years ago in 1926.

Presentations: Fisheries Section biologists attended public meetings and workshops on fisheries resource topics around the State, and they made 405 presentations on various fisheries topics including displays at boat shows and fairs.

FISHERIES SECTION

The Fisheries Section, with assistance from other sections of the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, conducted 63 community fishing events reaching 15,629 participants, plus their families and volunteers.

Publications: One peer reviewed scientific manuscript was published this year in *The Nautilus* and two other manuscripts have been accepted and are awaiting publication in *The American Malacological Bulletin* and the *Southeastern Naturalist*. Work on two additional manuscripts is ongoing. One article was published in Outdoor Alabama magazine: "Striped Bass on Lake Martin." One article was published in Alabama Outdoor News: "Alabama's Southern Walleye."

Research: Through the Investigation and Management Techniques for Public Waters Project, there were two contractual studies that were ongoing during the year. These studies involved research on the population characteristics of largemouth bass in the Mobile Delta; and interactions between stocked channel catfish and other sport fish in public fishing lakes. Through the Statewide Fisheries Research Project, a new study to undertake population assessments of channel catfish, blue catfish and flathead catfish in Lake Guntersville was initiated.

Reservoir Management: Black bass, walleye, catfish, shad, crappie, morone spp., bluegill, and redear populations were sampled by electrofishing, trap netting, fyke netting, trawling and/or gillnetting in Wheeler, Logan Martin, Weiss, Demopolis, Harris, Coffeeville, Miller's Ferry, Little Bear Creek Reservoir, Wilson, Aliceville, Gainesville, Claiborne, Eufaula, Yates, Jones Bluff, Jordan, and Mitchell. All fish collected were measured and weighed. Thermal and oxygen profiles were collected from most of the previously mentioned reservoirs. Reservoir reconnaissance surveys were completed on some reservoirs where standardized sampling was performed. Results of the surveys are incorporated into reservoir reports. Relative values of angler harvest, effort, and pressure were collected by creel surveys on Little Bear Creek Reservoir, Harris, Gainesville, and Jordan, and are recorded in the reservoir reports.

General Survey: Sport fish sampling and surveys were conducted on Patsaliga River, Cedar Creek, Shoal Creek, and Langdon Municipal Lake. Fisheries survey work was also performed on the Tallapoosa River, Three Mile Creek, Second Creek, Sipsey River, North River, Cahaba River, Black Warrior River, Weogufka Creek, Mulberry Fork, Bear Creek, Hurricane Creek, Cedar Creek, Little Choctawhatchee River, and Choctawhatchee River. Samples of largemouth bass were collected from Wheeler and Big Bear Creek Reservoir for a genetics study.

Endangered Species (Section-6) Studies: Jeff Garner, State Malacologist, continued the Tennessee River mussel and snail recovery project and completed a spotted rocksnail

survey. Dr. Paul Johnson, Director of the Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center, and Mr. Garner began a multi-year project to determine Pleuroceridae snails of Alabama. Dr. Johnson began a multi-year project to determine the mussels of the Paint Rock River. Steve Rider, Aquatic Resources Coordinator, completed a survey for the saltmarsh topminnow, and administered the following Section 6 contractual studies in FY 2008: Alabama River mussel survey; slackwater darter survey; watercress darter genetics study; North River mussel survey, and Bear Creek fish survey.

Aquatic Education: The Fisheries Section, with assistance from other sections of the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, conducted 63 community fishing events reaching 15,629 participants, plus their families and volunteers. Fishing classes were conducted for various audiences (mostly youth) during 76 sessions that reached 2,250 participants. Sixty-four casting classes were taught for 3,323 participants. Rods and reels were loaned to physical education instructors who allowed students to practice casting. Talks about how aquatic resources function were presented to 191 groups with a total audience of 6,143, including 32 hands-on talks with the new "Creek Kids" program including 999 participants. Additional information was presented to the public through displays for 37 man-days at events such as boat shows, fairs and Earth Day celebrations. Another 18 man-days allowed people to experience catching a fish through the use of the Sport Fishing Simulator. Eight presentations were made to 260 instructors of various types about casting, fishing and/or aquatic education.

Freshwater Mussel Management and Research: A total of 82 biological field trips were made during this fiscal year for general and specialized surveys of mussel and snail populations and to locate broodstock sources for use at the Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center. Work sites included locations on the Black Warrior River, Cahaba River, Cypress Creek, Butler Creek, Tennessee River, Limestone Creek, Yellowleaf Creek, Lookout Creek, Swan Creek, Huntsville Spring Branch, and Alabama River tributaries. Assistance and consultation regarding mollusk issues were provided to the Tennessee Valley Authority, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Geological Survey of Alabama, the State Lands Division of ADCNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Eight regional technical and scientific meetings were attended with five presentations being given.

Aquatic Resources Activities: The Aquatic Resources Program

welcomed the hiring of Andrew Henderson as the stream fish biologist. Henderson is responsible implementation of the statewide stream assessment program for the Fisheries Section in cooperation with the Geological Survey of Alabama. Aquatic Resources staff represented the Fisheries Section at the following meetings and workshops: Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS), Alabama Fisheries Association Annual Meeting, Alabama River fish passage meeting, Southern Instream Flow Network workshops, Instream Flow Council 2008 meeting, Southeastern Fishes Council annual meeting, Saltmarsh Topminnow Conservation team meeting, Fisheries Section stream workshop, Alabama Water Resources Association meeting, and Mid-South Aquatic Plant Meeting. A final draft of the State of Alabama ANS management plan was completed with comments from the public. Conservation efforts for the southern walleye continued, with nine fish collected from Hatchet Creek for broodstock. Shoal bass recovery efforts continued with fish stocked in Little Uchee Creek at Griffin's Mill. The tagged Alabama sturgeon was tracked until the tag battery expired through January 2009. Alabama shad sampling revealed no individuals collected in the Alabama River. The following talks were presented at professional meetings:

- Rider, S.J., T. R. Powell, T. Ringenberg, and J.R. Powell. September 2009. "Habitats and movements of an endangered Alabama sturgeon." 139th Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, Nashville, TN.
- Kuhajda, B. and S.J. Rider. September 2009. "Status of the imperiled Alabama sturgeon." 139th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, Nashville, TN.
- Rider, S.J., T.R. Powell, T. Ringenberg, and J.R. Powell. November 2008. "Southeastern Fishes Council Desperate Dozen Alabama sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus suttkusi*).": Southeastern Fishes Council Annual Meeting, Chattanooga, TN.

Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center: Activities at the Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center (AABC) continued to focus primarily on facility re-fit and new construction in 2009. Construction efforts were completed on a large mussel culture system, a lateral transfer line system between three culture ponds, refit of a large well, and the completion of interior work in the maintenance and field support building were the primary activities. After four years of effort, construction efforts should finally be completed by summer 2010. Additionally, initial culture efforts with mussel and snail species were completed in

TABLE 2.
FISH STOCKED BY NON-GOVERNMENT PERMIT
HOLDERS IN ALABAMA PUBLIC WATERS
DURING FY 2009

Species	Location	Number or Weight
Triploid White Amur (Grass Carp)	Thurlow Lake	4,000 Fish
Largemouth Bass	Lay Lake	17,500 Fish
Channel Catfish	Guntersville Lake	300 Fish
Channel Catfish	Neely Henry Lake	1,000 lbs.
Channel Catfish	Logan Martin Lake	1,500 lbs.
Channel Catfish	Guntersville Lake	1,000 lbs.



FISHERIES SECTION

A total of 149,711 anglers fished in state lakes, and a total of 401,819 fish weighing 222,278 pounds were harvested. Each angler averaged 2.7 fish and 1.5 pounds of per angler trip.

WILDLIFE SECTION

An annual 28-survey-route mourning dove study was conducted with information shared with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to form season and bag limit regulations. As part of a nationwide project, 1,368 mourning doves were trapped, banded and released.

2009. Over 102,000 juveniles of seven different mussel species and more than 40,000 individuals of eight different species were produced in 2009. Mussels produced in primary culture efforts are now ready for continued culture efforts in newly constructed pond systems.

Species releases in 2009 were restricted by poor weather and high-river levels in the late summer and fall. AABC staff traveled to the National Museum of Natural History to review and photograph freshwater type specimens in order to catalog and verify species identifications of Alabama snails. AABC staff also participated in mollusk field survey work in the Alabama River system and the Bear Creek system. AABC staff also continued work on the development of the Mobile Basin and Tennessee/Cumberland Mollusk Reintroduction and Augmentation Plans. After several years of effort these plans are finally nearing completion.

PROBLEMS/SOLUTIONS

Public Fishing Lakes: Bass crowding continues to be a problem statewide. Removal of bass by the use of anglers and/or electrofishing gear, along with judicious use of other treatments, will be employed to manage overcrowded bass populations. Recruitment of qualified lake managers at rural state lakes continues to be a problem. Partnerships with other agencies will be pursued in order to develop a broader user base.

Riverine Habitat: The loss of riverine habitat in Alabama has resulted in the decline or loss of obligate riverine fishes. Efforts continue to document habitat loss and provide suitable riverine habitat where possible. There is a need to develop a comprehensive plan for the permitting, or managing of water withdrawals, water discharges and instream flow changes as it relates to the protection of aquatic habitat.

Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS): ANS pose a significant problem to the State of Alabama. These are species introduced outside of their native ranges that can grow in, or are closely associated with, aquatic environment. A draft of an ANS plan for Alabama will be submitted in FY 2010.

Salary Discrepancy: A serious discrepancy exists between the salaries of Fisheries Section biologists and certified law enforcement officers. Division administrators recognize such salary inequities can and do affect morale and work performance and continue to seek a solution to this problem.

Fish Hatcheries: Many production ponds, including drain kettles, water supply lines, drainage lines and power supply to the ponds, are in need of renovation.

FUTURE PLANS

- Continue resurfacing parking lots at boating access areas statewide as needed.
- Complete renovations at Myrtlewood, Bonner's Landing, and Lay Lake Boat Ramps.
- Acquire and/or construct new boat ramp facilities at Wetumpka, Eureka Landing, and McCarty's Ferry.
- Expand parking areas at Bonners Landing, Mt. Vernon, South Sauty Creek, and Elk River North.
- Construct courtesy docks at Comer Bridge, Rotary, Bonner's Landing, and others as needed.
- The primary refit and construction projects for the Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center will be completed in early FY 2010. and the staff's attention will turn to production activities.
- Monitor reservoir fish populations and riverine habitat.
- Expand standardized fish population sampling in streams.
- Expand efforts to introduce children to fishing and in raising awareness of aquatic resources.
- Maintain high quality state lakes fisheries, upgrade dilapidated facilities, and develop partnerships with other agencies in order to better operate rural lakes.

WILDLIFE

The mission of the Wildlife Section is to manage and enhance the wildlife resources of Alabama and to provide for maximum public benefit. The section maintains Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) to provide public access for hunting and recreation; monitors wildlife populations to determine management needs; provides the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) director recommendations on hunting season lengths, dates, bag limits and restrictions; provides technical assistance to landowners, managers and hunting clubs on wildlife and habitat management and harvest strategies to improve wildlife resources, and on animal damage control to protect crops and property as much as practical without undue damage to wildlife resources. The section provides technical assistance to other government agencies to help structure activities to avoid undue damage to wildlife and to enhance those resources where possible. The section also provides information to the public on the natural

history, problems and management needs of Alabama wildlife.

The section provides a Hunter Education Program to train the public, especially beginning hunters, on safety, ethics and individual responsibilities of wildlife conservation. The section provides opportunities to get youth and individuals with physical disabilities involved in hunting activities.

Wildlife Section operations involve ongoing projects such as developing and maintaining wildlife openings, roads, buildings and boundary lines on 33 WMAs, two wildlife refuges and one sanctuary (approximately 761,000 acres); administering public hunts on approximately 759,000 acres of WMA land; Maintaining 17 sites for physically disabled hunters; developing and maintaining shooting (11 sites) and archery ranges (2 sites and 2 in development); participating on boards and committees to provide input into plans and decisions affecting wildlife; conducting wildlife research and surveys and publishing the results; cooperating with universities to conduct wildlife research of mutual interest; planning and coordinating environmental activities and review of impact statements; and administering the Alabama Cooperative Deer Management Assistance Program.

FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL

An administrative staff with offices in Montgomery coordinated and monitored operations within the Wildlife Section. The staff consisted of a Wildlife Chief, one Assistant Chief, one Forester, one Hunter Education Program Coordinator, one Hunter Education Regional Coordinator, one Nongame Wildlife Coordinator, two Wildlife Biologists, one Biologist Aide, an Accounting Technician and three clerical personnel. One Assistant Chief's position remains vacant.

Six districts across the state are each staffed by a supervising wildlife biologist and include a number of area wildlife biologists and managers, biologist aides, equipment operators, clerical personnel and laborers. One nongame wildlife biologist was headquartered at Florence primarily for north Alabama assignments and one at Spanish Fort for south Alabama. One Hunter Education Coordinator was assigned at Cullman to handle north Alabama activities, one in Montgomery for central Alabama and one at Greenville for south Alabama activities. A Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Unit consisting of three Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division biologists worked out of Natural Resources Conservation Services offices in a partnership established to assist with cost share programs to enhance wildlife habitat on private lands throughout the state.

Wildlife Section facilities include a central office in Montgomery,

six district offices, 33 wildlife management areas, two wildlife refuges and one wildlife sanctuary, 11 shooting ranges and two archery ranges.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Research and biological surveys were conducted to obtain information on wildlife and their habitats. Aerial waterfowl censuses and hunter bag checks were conducted in the Mobile Delta and on the Tennessee River during fall and winter. Aerial counts were also conducted for bald eagles.

Approximately 163,049 man-days of hunting occurred on WMAs. Harvest figures reached expected levels. These areas also furnish trapping, fishing, hiking, picnicking, camping, and nature study opportunities. A total of 2,419 miles of boundary lines, 8,736 acres of wildlife openings, and 1,815 miles of area roads were maintained.

Information was collected on WMAs and other sites to determine deer hunter participation and success, the physical condition of deer and the current status of deer populations. Deer were collected at four sites to assess reproductive characteristics within those populations. A hunting activity survey was conducted. The results were valuable in determining hunting season lengths and bag limits and evaluating the success of each hunting season. Deer harvest data was collected at five locations in Barbour County to determine the effects of current antler point restrictions. Data were analyzed for trends and compared with data from adjacent non-antler point restricted counties.

An annual 28-survey-route mourning dove study was conducted with information shared with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to form season and bag limit regulations. As part of a nationwide project, 1,368 mourning doves were trapped, banded and released. Data from reported band returns will be analyzed to provide parameters needed for dove population modeling such as band return rates and estimates for mortality and survival. A total of 2,169 mourning dove wings were collected to provide data on age structure within mourning dove populations as part of the nationwide project.

A significant effort by wildlife personnel throughout much of the state resulted in our wood duck banding goal of 500 being exceeded. The banding program is a cooperative effort with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Banding efforts across the eastern United States contributed to the opportunity to increase the wood duck bag limit from two to three. The banding efforts will continue in the upcoming years.

Furbearer populations were evaluated by means of a survey in which the number of road kills and sightings of live animals near

WILDLIFE SECTION

The Youth Dove Hunting

Program had 31 sites across the state with approximately 1,684 participants.

Approximately 9,384 Alabamians participated in 79 youth shooting sports events that were conducted throughout the state to promote safe, responsible firearms handling and improve marksmanship skills

WILDLIFE SECTION

This was the 17th year that completing the Alabama Hunter Education Program was mandatory for first-time license buyers born on or after August 1, 1977. Approximately 12,394 students participated in the 458 courses offered by certified instructors throughout Alabama..

roads were recorded by Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries personnel to develop population indices.

In cooperation with the Wildlife and Fisheries Cooperative Unit at Auburn University, a wild turkey production study was continued in an effort to develop methods of providing data needed to construct population models for wild turkeys in Alabama.

A chronic wasting disease surveillance program for deer was conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries. Tissue samples from 606 deer were submitted to state diagnostic labs for testing. Chronic wasting disease was not detected in any of those samples.

Wildlife Section biologists received training in preparation for collection of samples from waterfowl and other birds to be tested for avian influenza. Funds for that program were provided by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the sampling was conducted in partnership with that agency's Wildlife Services personnel. This was the third year the Wildlife Section participated in this program. Collection of samples began with the opening of the teal hunting season in September and continued throughout the waterfowl hunting season in order to meet established quotas.

Wildlife biologists participated in annual surveys to monitor the status of breeding birds in Alabama. The surveys include colonial nesting shorebirds in coastal Alabama, most notably on Gaillard Island where between approximately 4,500 pairs of pelicans nest annually along with 3,000 pairs of terns and 5,000 pair of laughing gulls. Working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, dredge disposal activities were coordinated so as not to affect nesting birds. Additionally, six routes of the Breeding Bird Survey were conducted as a contribution to the continent-wide monitoring of neotropical and other resident nesting species. Assistance was given to the Coastal Bird Conservation in efforts to document breeding pairs of Wilson and snowy plovers and American oystercatchers.

Twenty-four Alabama caves were surveyed and/or searched for T/E bat species. Biologists also continued a general survey of Alabama bats at selected sites. In February, wildlife section personnel attended the inaugural meeting of the Alabama Bat Working Group (ABWG), which was hosted by WFF at the District 1 office. Nongame Program personnel served on the ABWG committee charged with writing an Alabama White-nosed Syndrome Management Plan.

Wildlife biologists participated in two National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts, coordinating and compiling one of the count circles, the Mobile-Tensaw Delta Count.

The Division received \$417,326 of federal aid funds for projects

on fish and wildlife species eligible for funding under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act. Those funds were shared by the Wildlife and Fisheries Sections with approximately one-half allocated to projects administered by the Wildlife Section. Population and status surveys for the gray bat, red-cockaded woodpecker, manatee and Alabama red-bellied turtle are examples of projects made possible by those funds. Implementation of a Safe Harbor Plan for red-cockaded woodpeckers continued for the state of Alabama through Section 6 funding.

Surveys for the eastern indigo snake concluded in 2007 with no evidence discovered of the threatened species occurring in the state, but limited surveys continued in 2008 and 2009 in prime habitat from various reports. An educational brochure and companion poster produced and printed for distribution to alert the public on the plight of the species continues to be distributed through schools and environmental centers to educate the public and to generate credible sightings of the snake.

A captive breeding and re-introduction of the indigo snake began in 2007 through a state wildlife grant project in cooperation with Auburn University, and our nongame wildlife biologists play an integral role in this project.

Since removal of the bald eagle from the Threatened and Endangered Species List in 2007, every known Alabama bald eagle nest was not monitored for productivity and survivorship. However, a selected subsample of approximately 20 nests statewide was monitored to detect any significant statewide problem with Alabama's eagles. Biologists also monitored the number of bald eagles overwintering in Alabama as part of the nationwide 2009 Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey. The number of bald eagles wintering in Alabama remains stable.

One thousand one hundred sixty man-days were devoted to providing technical assistance to private landowners, corporations, hunting clubs and government agencies. Biologists made on-site inspections, reviewed plans and provided recommendations for effective wildlife management. The Cooperative Deer Management Assistance Program included 198 landowners and hunting clubs covering more than 419,770 acres.

The alligator harvest area expanded and the tagging program was modified in southeastern Alabama but remained the same in the southwestern area. The hunts went well in both areas. The program is being evaluated for possible expansion next year.

Providing landowners and land managers technical assistance to help them implement strategies to improve wildlife habitat on their lands continued to grow in importance. An innovative partnership continued with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to help private landowners obtain better wildlife management advice

and to better deliver farm bill programs to landowners. Under a cost share agreement, WFF Wildlife Biologists worked out of NRCS offices and worked with NRCS personnel to deliver the programs. The year began with four WFF Wildlife Biologists working on this partnership program. The WFF program supervisor retired during the year, leaving three biologists in the partnership. Approximately 275 landowners were met statewide resulting in 79 conservation plans and contracts. Twenty-six workshops, tours, presentations and trainings provided an additional 951 landowner contacts. This partnership will continue with NRCS in FY 2009-2010.

The District IV Wildlife staff has been frequently meeting with personnel from Alabama Power Company to develop a wildlife management plan for the Martin Relicensing Project. The document is required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Development of the plan will continue.

Wildlife Section personnel continue to participate in various aspects of four joint ventures (JV): East Gulf Coastal Plain JV, Gulf Coast JV, Central Hardwoods JV, and Appalachian JV. A JV serves to lead a regional habitat conservation movement founded upon a science-based, landscape scale strategy. The partnerships can more effectively secure a sustainable future for birds and habitats.

A major longleaf pine restoration project continued on Barbour WMA. The first compartment had a second application of herbicide to control seedling bi-color lespedeza in July 2009. Fifty acres of low basal area slash pine was treated with herbicide by skidder in August 2009. Area personnel treated approximately 60 acres of low basal area slash pine with herbicide during the summer of 2009. Plans are to reforest these tracts in December 2009 with container longleaf seedlings. The second compartment was harvested during the summer of 2009, with BMP work anticipated to be completed by October 2009. Plans are to treat this compartment with herbicide in spring/summer 2010, site prep burn in fall 2010, and reforest with container longleaf seedlings in fall 2010/winter 2011. The third compartment in this project is currently being evaluated for treatment. When completed, this multiyear project will have restored longleaf pine habitat on approximately 4,000 acres at Barbour WMA.

Fred T. Stimpson Community Hunting Area (CHA) is another area that has been included in the section's longleaf pine initiative. Silvicultural treatments were applied to one tract at Fred T. Stimpson CHA to enhance existing longleaf areas and to provide areas for restoration of native longleaf pine habitat. This tract will be evaluated for site prep spray and burn in the spring/summer 2010, to possibly be followed with reforestation of container longleaf in fall 2010/winter 2011. Several tracts were harvested using the shelterwood method,

and are scheduled for an initial cool season prescribed burn. Several tracts were treated with herbicide and site prep burned during the summer of 2009. These tracts are scheduled to be reforested with container longleaf seedlings in December 2009. When completed, this multiyear project will have rehabilitated and restored approximately 3,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat at Fred T. Stimpson CHA.

The longleaf pine ecosystem is one of the most diverse and species-rich habitats. The current and future projects under the longleaf initiative will benefit future generations for decades.

Cogongrass is a highly flammable nonnative invasive plant listed on the federal and Alabama noxious weed lists. The Wildlife Section staff has been monitoring for cogongrass on the wildlife management areas throughout the state, especially in central and southern Alabama. Scattered areas of the grass have been undergoing treatment on the Fred T. Stimpson area and the Upper State Sanctuary for several seasons. The infested areas have been significantly reduced. The chemical control will continue.

Nine shooting ranges on Wildlife Management Areas, the Etowah Public Shooting Range, and the Marengo Public Shooting Range continue to receive excellent public use. These ranges are open to the public on a daily basis during daylight hours. Maintenance is conducted throughout the year by staff members and volunteers.

Construction of the Cullman Community Archery Park concluded during April 2009. This range has eight youth targets ranging from 5-20 yards. The adult range has eight targets that vary from 15-50 yards. An elevated platform, approximately 12 feet high, is available for bowhunters to simulate hunting or shooting from a treestand. A simulated ground blind is available for bowhunters to practice shooting from a kneeling or seated position. A 16 target walk-through range is available with targets out to 70 yards. This range was constructed through a partnership with the City of Cullman and the Archery Trade Association. Construction of additional archery parks continued in Demopolis and Dothan. These facilities are expected to open during fiscal year 2010.

Management and maintenance continued on the North Alabama Birding Trail, which opened in September 2005. The trail has been very successful and continues to receive better than expected levels of visitation. Visitor comments are almost all positive. Nongame personnel also served on an advisory committee and provided technical assistance to the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel with the Alabama Birding Trail Initiative and planning for future birding trail development in the state.

The Wildlife Section staff is also charged with administering the permitting of falconry for the state. During FY 2008-09 only one new

falconry apprentice was tested and eventually approved for a permit. One formerly inactive falconer reactivated his permit. Currently there are 53 permitted falconers in Alabama.

This was the 17th year that completing the Alabama Hunter Education Program was mandatory for first-time license buyers born on or after August 1, 1977. Approximately 12,394 students participated in the 458 courses offered by certified instructors throughout Alabama. The courses were taught by approximately 800 instructors, mostly volunteers, and totaled 5,496 hours of instruction. The time and expertise contributed by volunteers is essential to the success of the Hunter Education Program.

Approximately 9,384 Alabamians participated in 79 youth shooting sports events that were conducted throughout the state to promote safe, responsible firearms handling and improve marksmanship skills. These one-day events are designed to introduce participants to muzzleloaders, shotguns, .22 rifles, pellet guns, and archery. Sport shooting is closely related to hunting activities, and it is important for the public to have safe areas to participate in that sport. We will continue our efforts to increase developed shooting range sites.

The Hunting Trail for People with Physical Disabilities continues to be well received. The season opened with 17 hunting sites on the trail. This innovative program provides opportunities for individuals with physical disabilities to participate in hunting in an environment that was developed to meet their needs.

Opportunities for youth participation in hunting are not as numerous as we would desire. The youth dove hunting program continued on 31 sites across the state. This is a cooperative effort with private landowners and other sponsors. The goal is to provide youth the opportunity to experience hunting in a positive atmosphere. There were 1,684 participants for the hunts scheduled in October 2008 and September 2009. The hunts were extremely popular with 25.4 percent of the youth being first-time hunters. In addition, youth hunt opportunities were offered on the wildlife management areas for deer, turkey and waterfowl and statewide for deer and waterfowl.

We plan to continue the youth dove hunting program by offering youth dove hunting sites across the state next year. This program has not only been popular with young hunters, but it has opened many new areas for public hunting and has helped to create new partnerships. It has also brought national attention to our program. We will also maintain and continue to add sites to the hunting trail for people with physical disabilities.

Alabama's National Archery in the Schools Program continued to show growth and now has approximately 160 schools participating. Teachers from 391 schools have been certified to conduct the

two-week Olympic style archery curriculum. This program has the potential to introduce over 100,000 students to Olympic style archery each year. The sixth annual NASP state championship was held on February 25, 2009 and featured about 1,100 participants from 48 schools. Teachers, participants, spectators, and WFF employees stated the event was well organized and that they look forward to future events. Teachers and school administrators have made positive statements regarding this program and report that student behavior, attendance, and attitudes have improved since implementing the NASP. The 2010 event has been scheduled for April 22, 2010 at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Center. Approximately 1,100 students are expected to participate. This event will provide WFF with an opportunity to introduce participants to other outdoor life skills in addition to archery.

Wildlife Section staff participated in the Department's Conservation Expo at Oak Mountain State Park on May 1 and 2, 2009. Approximately 1,100 children from local Jefferson County schools were introduced to many facets of Alabama's outdoor resources and shooting sports on May 1. Approximately 7,500 individuals participated in activities including trapping demonstrations, raptor seminars, dutch oven cooking, primitive living, and many other hands-on skills related to Alabama's rich outdoor heritage on May 2. About 1,200 individuals participated in one or more shooting events including a safety lecture, beginning shotgun, advanced shotgun, .22 rifle, muzzleloading, archery, and pellet guns.

The Wildlife Section conducted three furbearer trapping workshops. Workshops were held in Decatur (December 5-7, 2008), Greensboro (January 2-4, 2009) and in Greenville (February 13-15, 2009). These cooperative trapper education workshops were a collaborative effort of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Alabama Trapper and Predator Control Association, and the Alabama Hunter Education Association. A total of 50 students participated in these workshops ranging from 7 to 18 years of age with eight of the participants being female. Many of the students were accompanied by a parent or guardian. The two and one-half day programs started on Friday evening with classroom presentations on trapping history, furbearer management, responsible trapping and conservation, and trapping laws and regulations. Each program continued Saturday morning with presentations on trap and snare types, trapping equipment, lures and baits, and hands on trap setting familiarization. Saturday afternoon was devoted to trap line scouting and making sets with their mentors. Sunday morning found the students meeting at 6 a.m. to check traps and pull their trap line. The rest of the day was devoted

to fur handling methods and techniques. This program continues to be a great success. The impact was far-reaching and beneficial to both parents and students who participated. Plans for FY 2009-10 are to conduct four workshops throughout Alabama.

Nuisance wildlife information was disseminated to the public through a variety of media outlets and educational workshops. Feral hogs are of serious concern in Alabama because of their negative impact on wildlife habitat, populations, and forest management activities. A partnership was developed with the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service to conduct four highly successful workshops regarding feral hog biology, impacts of feral hogs on wildlife habitat, disease implications, control and eradication techniques, and the need to eliminate relocation of these animals. The workshops provided landowners with the necessary information to be proactive in their feral hog management activities.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

The loss of leased land and the threat of losing leased land in Wildlife Management Areas is a significant problem. During the year, we worked with Forever Wild in an effort to secure a long term (90-plus years) on two WMAs. Both of those areas are near Birmingham and serve a high population area. All of the leased land was withdrawn from Kinterbish WMA resulting in the closure of that WMA. The process of disposing of the 20 acres at the Kinterbish WMA owned by WFF under the Alabama Land Sales and Lease Act was begun. Land lost is usually closed to the public and leased to a relatively small number of individuals. More leased land is likely to be lost in the future. The Wildlife Section will attempt to lease or purchase other lands and provide additional incentives to encourage landowners to include lands in the program. We will also continue to work with Forever Wild in an effort to purchase land for public hunting.

A critical position became vacant during the year with the retirement of one Assistant Chief. For the section to accomplish all that it can, that position needs to be filled.

A serious discrepancy exists between the salaries of Wildlife Section biologists who are certified law enforcement officers and the few who are not. The difference is as great as 22 percent in the top salaries of some classifications. Division administrators recognize such salary inequities can and do affect morale and work performance and continue to seek a solution to this problem.

Funding for the Nongame Wildlife Program is not adequate. Revenue from the income tax check-off is minimal. Funds from Federal initiatives are becoming available but they require a state-matching share of 25 to 50 percent. Additional sources of revenue are required to

meet this need.

The Division is becoming more actively engaged in nuisance wildlife related activities that present new challenges for time management and funding to accomplish these increasingly important, and somewhat non-traditional, roles of modern wildlife management. The Wildlife Section is currently developing a plan to meet the needs of Alabamians that will hopefully minimize the financial strain placed on our agency by the burgeoning number of requests for assistance related to nuisance wildlife.

FUTURE PLANS

The Wildlife Section will continue operating WMAs for outdoor recreation. Every effort will be made to add acreage to WMAs, including contacts with corporate and private landowners and working with the Forever Wild program to identify appropriate tracts of land to purchase.

Sport shooting is closely related to hunting activities and it is important for the public to have safe areas to participate in that sport. We will continue our efforts to increase developed shooting and archery range sites.

We plan to continue the youth dove hunting program by offering youth dove hunting sites across the state next year. This program has not only been popular with young hunters, it has opened many new areas for public hunting and has helped to create new partnerships. It has also brought national attention to our program. We will also maintain and continue to add sites to the hunting trail for people with physical disabilities.

The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries is cooperating with Responsive Management, a nationally recognized natural resources marketing firm, to develop a survey of hunters that have purchased a hunting license in recent years but not the current hunting season. Our goal is to determine reasons existing hunters do not purchase a license annually and develop a communication or outreach program to recruit them back into the ranks of active hunters. Fully understanding reasons for not hunting each year is becoming increasingly more important as we try to maximize public support.

Most wildlife in Alabama resides on private land. For that and other reasons we plan to increase and improve efforts to engage private landowners and offer assistance that better helps them manage their property.

The Forever Wild Program sunsets in 2012. We will be working with division and agency personnel as appropriate to seek passage of reauthorizing legislation.



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